

Aquino offers amnesty to rebels

MANILA (AP) — President Corason Aquino, saying she wants to heal wounds left by 18 years of fighting, announced Saturday a "full and complete amnesty" to communist rebels who lay down their arms. Mrs. Aquino said in a nationwide television broadcast that rebels who wish to take advantage of her offer must voluntarily turn themselves in within the next six months. The presidential decree earlier released the text of her proclamation. A palace source said Mrs. Aquino was to announce "guiding principles" of the amnesty programme in a speech on Sunday marking the first anniversary of the presidential security group. The proclamation did not say so categorically, but it appeared to be aimed also at Muslim rebels fighting for self-rule in the southern Philippines for the past 14 years. "I ... hereby declare and proclaim full and complete amnesty in favour of all persons who have or may have committed any act penalised under existing laws in furtherance of their political beliefs and who, as of this date ... and for six months thereafter, return of their own free will to the fold of the law," she said.

Volume 12 Number 3412

AMMAN, SUNDAY MARCH, 1 1987, RAJAB 1 1407

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Masri briefs Cabinet on EC stand

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri briefed the Cabinet on Saturday on the European Community's (EC) meeting and the declaration it issued last Monday in Brussels. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. It did not give details. Mr. Masri visited Brussels and held extensive talks with EC foreign ministers before the EC Council of Ministers met on Monday and issued the statement endorsing Jordan's call for an international conference on the Middle East.

Overtime allowances suspended

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers instructed the Ministry of Finance on Saturday not to pay any overtime allowances to any civil servant as of March 1, 1987. The decision to cut overtime allowances, which was taken during a regular Cabinet session, excludes cases where the Cabinet approves such payments.

Syria puts clocks forward

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrians were to put watches and clocks forward one hour from midnight on Saturday, an official announcement said. It gave no reason for the early start of summer time — bringing Syria three hours ahead of GMT — but it was believed due to power shortages. Damascus and other Syrian cities experience at least five hours of power cuts daily.

Assassin arrested in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — President Amin Gemayel on Saturday told French Ambassador Christian Graeff that the assassin who killed French Military Attache Christian Gouttiere last September has been arrested. "The president relayed to me information that is going to make a sensation in France," Mr. Graeff said after a meeting with Mr. Gemayel at the presidential palace in suburban Baabda. "He just announced to me the arrest of the assassin of Colonel Gouttiere and this proves the efficiency of the (Lebanese) government, which we support," Mr. Graeff told reporters. But he would not disclose the identity of the killer or give other details.

Bhutto returns home

KARACHI (R) — Opposition figure Benazir Bhutto, arch-foe of President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, returned on Saturday from a 10-day visit to Britain, a spokesman for her Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) said. He told reporters the 33-year-old daughter of executed Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto kept her trip secret and arrived in Karachi "very quietly."

Kabul denies raids on Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan denied on Saturday that its aircraft carried out air raids in Pakistan in the past two days which Pakistani officials said killed about 70 people and wounded 250. A government statement reported by the official Afghan news agency Bakhtar said the reports were baseless. The agency, quoted by Kabul Radio monitored in Islamabad, accused the Western media of hostile propaganda aimed at sabotaging U.N.-sponsored indirect talks between the two countries taking place in Geneva.

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Gorbachev offers separate deal over missiles in Europe

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev proposed on Saturday that the Soviet Union and the United States reach an agreement on medium-range missiles separate from other arms control issues, the official news agency TASS said.

"The Soviet Union suggests that the problem on medium-range missiles in Europe be singled out from the package of issues, and that a separate agreement on it be concluded without delay," TASS quoted Mr. Gorbachev as saying.

The Soviet Union has previously said no agreements on medium- and long-range nuclear arsenals were possible without an accord restraining the Reagan administration's plans for an anti-missile defence based partly in space.

"We are putting our proposals on the table of negotiations with the United States in Geneva," Mr. Gorbachev said in the statement.

Since the October meeting between Mr. Gorbachev and U.S.

President Ronald Reagan in Iceland, the Kremlin had maintained that its proposals on reductions in strategic, medium-range and space and defensive weapons were a package that had to be considered in its entirety.

Mr. Gorbachev's announcement Saturday indicated the Soviets had abandoned their previous position.

"We were assured more than once that if the Soviet Union singles out the issue of medium-range missiles from the Reykjavik package, then there would be no difficulty in agreeing to their elimination in Europe."

"A good opportunity is now being offered to prove that in practice. This is being awaited by the Europeans and by peoples of other countries," Mr. Gorbachev

said. Mr. Gorbachev said the Soviet Union still considered it important to reach agreement on substantially limiting and then abolishing strategic nuclear weapons.

"Of course, the conclusion of such an agreement, as has been repeatedly emphasised, should be conditioned by a decision on preventing the deployment of weapons in outer space, in view of the organic interconnection of these issues," he said.

"Despite all the difficulties and artificial obstructions, the Soviet Union is again showing its will to resolve the nuclear disarmament issue..."

In its first response to the Soviet offer, the White House said the U.S. soon will make its own proposal.

"We have not seen the speech as yet, but as expected, we will be tabling our own IMF (intermediate missile) proposal in Geneva and it will be consistent with our approach in Reykjavik," White House spokesman Albert R. Brashear Jr. said.

Lebanese politicians, Syrian leaders discuss Beirut plan

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese policemen deployed alongside Syrian forces in west Beirut on Saturday as Lebanese Muslim leaders and politicians met top Syrian officials in Damascus to review the progress of the week-old security drive in the Lebanese capital.

Lebanese riot policemen joined the Syrians at their 23 checkpoints across west Beirut. They were seen waving traffic and frisking pedestrians.

A police spokesman said the deployment was in line with the security plan worked out by Prime Minister Rashid Karami and senior Syrian officials.

The plan, according to the spokesman, also called for the deployment of "regular" Lebanese forces along the western side of the five-kilometre green line that slices Beirut.

Soldiers of the Lebanese army took over the western side of the demarcation line from Shi'ite militiamen Wednesday.

Some 7,000 Syrian troops have forced warring gunmen off streets of west Beirut since they de-

ploied there last Sunday at the request of Mr. Karami and the other Muslim leaders at Saturday's talks in Damascus.

Druze militia chief Walid Junblatt, whose men battled the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia for six days until the Syrians moved in, said earlier he wanted to work towards a new agreement to settle the militia conflict.

"We have made clear the party's views on the past painful events," he told reporters after leading officials of his Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) in talks with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

"Of course we want to close the old chapter and open a new one for a national democratic alliance with all national forces in the Lebanese arena including the Amal movement," he said.

"But we have to agree first on clear bases for the interest of this national move and for the interest of our strategic alliance with Syria," Mr. Junblatt added.

Mr. Junblatt later joined Mr. Karami, Amal leader Nabih Berri, Education Minister Salim

Hoss and Parliament Speaker Hussein Hussein for talks with the Syrians to map out the next stage of the security plan for west Beirut, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said.

The Syrian team, headed by Mr. Khaddam, also included Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Al Kasm, People's Council Speaker Mahmoud Zu'bi and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa.

The two sides meeting again Saturday evening and sources close to the Lebanese delegation said they might also meet Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Karami has rejected charges by Lebanon's President Amin Gemayel that his request for the deployment of additional Syrian troops in the west Beirut was unlawful.

He told Syrian Television that Syrian troops entered Lebanon in 1976 in response to a formal request by the then President

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Americans who stay in Lebanon not likely to be punished, page 2

Reagan praises ex-chief of staff as Baker prepares to move in

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Aides to Howard Baker held talks with Reagan administration officials on Saturday to smooth the way for his takeover as White House chief of staff from Donald Regan, who resigned abruptly on Friday.

President Ronald Reagan chose Mr. Baker, a former Senate majority leader, to set the White House in order following release of a report that blasted top officials for allowing the administration to be drawn into the Iran arms scandal.

The report, prepared by a three-man commission appointed by the president, concluded that Mr. Regan, the most powerful White House chief of staff in recent history, bore primary responsibility for the "chaos" that descended after disclosures that arms were sold to Iran and some of the profits diverted to U.S.-backed contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Baker aides Tom Griscom and James Cannon began preparations on Saturday for the transition by attending a 90-minute meeting of a dozen high administration officials, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters.

Fitzwater said there was no discussion of further staff changes, although they are widely

expected as Mr. Reagan seeks to recover from the scandal that has plunged his presidency into its worst crisis.

Mr. Regan submitted his resignation in a 14-word letter to the president on Friday after learning that a television network had named his replacement even before Mr. Regan had been informed. News reports said he stormed out of the White House in a rage.

On Saturday, as Mr. Regan returned to clear out his desk, the White House released a warm letter of thanks from the president to the former Wall Street executive.

"I know that you stayed on beyond the time you had set for your return to private life and did so because you felt you could be of help in a time of trouble," Mr. Reagan said the letter, dated Friday.

"You were of help and I thank you. Whether on the deck of your beloved boat or on the Fairway (Mr. Regan is a keen sailor and golfer)... may the sun shine warm on your face, the wind be always at your back, and may God bless you and hold you in the hollow of his hand."

Mr. Reagan's replacement of Mr. Regan was seen as an important first step to put the Iran arms scandal behind him and get on

with the last two years of his presidency.

Mr. Baker's appointment was praised by both opposition Democrats and members of Mr. Reagan's Republican Party, but many political experts saw it as only the start of a major overhaul of the White House hierarchy.

Mr. Reagan, who usually spends his weekends at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland, decided to remain in the White House to review the commission report and consult his aides and political supporters.

He is expected to speak to the nation next week as part of his efforts to shore up his position as one of the most popular presidents in recent history.

Mr. Reagan still faces two congressional inquiries into the Iran arms scandal, and those probes — headed by Democrats — are likely to be even less sympathetic to him than the presidential commission, which criticised Mr.

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McFarlane call Iranians 'paranoid,' page 2

One-time Watergate probe may help Reagan, page 4

Reagan 'thundered' by report; Bush says new finding may help his presidential campaign, page 8

Beirut camps come under heavy shelling

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Artillery battles erupted at two Palestinian refugee camps on Saturday in the worst "camps war" fighting reported since thousands of Syrian troops moved into west Beirut to halt militia violence.

A Palestinian spokesman said the shelling of Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila camps in the south of the Lebanese capital lasted half an hour.

He denied local radio reports that explosions heard across the city came from fighting inside the Bourj Al Barajneh camp between pro- and anti-Syrian Palestinian factions.

The factions had buried their political differences to defend the refugee camps from a four-month blockade by the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia.

"The Syrians are now here. Let them see what is happening to our people," the Palestinian spokesman said.

Syrian troops have deployed near but not around Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila.

Syria had backed Amal in what the militia describes as a drive to curb the influence in the camps of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, supervising the Syrian clampdown in west Beirut, has said: "We hope the (pro-Syrian) Palestine National Salvation Front will be able to take charge of the camps and put an end to Arafat cliques."

A Beirut newspaper said Saturday tension had developed between Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and the Syrian government, apparently because of PSP leader Walid Junblatt's support for the Palestinians in the war with Amal.

On Friday, the United Nations said a truck convoy entered Shatila carrying food for hungry refugees, the first time it had been able to bring supplies into the camp since October.

It spoke of "total destruction" in the camp and reported eight cases of typhoid.

A Syrian unit escorted the U.N. food convoy to Shatila.

In Vienna, Austria, a statement issued by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said the trucks carried 16 tonnes of flour and four tonnes of powdered milk.

A doctor who accompanied the convoy reported eight cases of typhoid, the agency said.

Paris court jails Abdallah for life

PARIS (Agencies) — A special French anti-terrorist court sentenced Lebanese Georges Ibrahim Abdallah to life imprisonment on Saturday for complicity in two political murders and a failed attempt at a third.

Maurice Colomb, president of the assize court, announced the decision after the seven judges deliberated for one and a half hours.

Abdallah, 35, was found guilty of complicity in the 1982 murders of U.S. Military Attache Charles Ray and Israeli diplomat Yacov Barsimantov and a failed assassination attempt on another U.S. diplomat in 1984.

The court, France's first no-jury tribunal, rejected a plea by defence attorney Jacques Verges that Abdallah be set free and that the world "open its eyes to the despair of his people."

It also ignored a prosecution request that the court give Abdallah a light sentence of less than 10 years.

The request made on Friday by prosecuting counsel Pierre Baechlin, apparently in response to renewed threats of guerrilla

Murphy due in Mideast next week — Abdul Meguid

CAIRO (Agencies) — United States special envoy Richard Murphy is expected to visit Egypt, Jordan and Israel next week to discuss Middle East peace efforts, Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammad Esmat Abdul Meguid was quoted on Saturday as saying.

Mr. Murphy, the assistant deputy secretary for the Near East, visited the Middle East in January this year and reports indicated then that the trip was mainly aimed at trying to repair the damage done to U.S. credibility after revelations that Washington sold arms to Iran.

Mr. Abdul Meguid said Egypt would contact other Arab countries for their views on an international Middle East peace conference, according to a dispatch from Reuters on Saturday. The agency said the minister was speaking to reporters on Friday.

"We shall start contacts with Arab countries and other interested parties to push forward the peace efforts," Mr. Abdul Meguid was quoted as saying.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, after talks in Cairo with Egyptian leaders, said on Thursday that much more work had to be done before a conference could be convened.

Arab analysts told Reuters Egypt was unperturbed at this stage by the power struggle over the issue inside the Israeli government, although it privately hoped Mr. Peres would emerge victorious.

Egypt's semi-official Al Ahram newspaper said in an editorial the

drive for a conference should not be allowed to lose its momentum because it has become "the most specific cog in a wheel that could drive forward the peace process."

Reports from Tel Aviv said Saturday that Israel's coalition government was heading into a political crisis over Mr. Peres' agreement with Egypt on an international peace conference in defiance of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Officials from Mr. Peres' Labour Party and Mr. Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc said fire-works were likely at Sunday's weekly cabinet meeting.

In Egypt on Friday, Mr. Peres said he had reached agreement with President Hosni Mubarak to hold a peace conference this year despite Mr. Shamir's outright rejection of the idea.

"I am not convinced the recent events will bring about new elections," said Labour Party Secretary-General Uzi Bar-Am. But he added that there was a 50-50 chance that Israel's would go to the polls before the scheduled 1988 ballot.

Mr. Bar-Am told armed forces radio he believed Likud would not force an early election because it estimated that many obstacles remained before a peace conference could be convened.

Likud legislator Dan Meridor said there might be a stormy debate when Mr. Peres reports to Mr. Shamir and the cabinet on his talks in Egypt.

"I suggest we wait until we pass judgment ... because in the past

we have seen that big breakthroughs and big surprises and achievements reported on the first or second day of the return were not so when some days passed," Mr. Meridor said.

Mr. Shamir appeared to be in no hurry to bring down the coalition he forged with Mr. Peres following an inconclusive general election in 1984.

Still smarting from being jeered off the stage at his party's convention last year, he would face strong challenges for its leadership from Trade Minister Ariel Sharon and Deputy Prime Minister David Levy if new elections were called.

Aides quoted Mr. Shamir as saying he wanted to hear Mr. Peres' report on the Cairo talks before passing judgement.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department on Friday expressed approval that Egyptian and Israeli leaders had joined in dialogue but it withheld specific comment on their joint call for an international conference on the Middle East.

"We always encourage and applaud dialogue between the senior leadership of two of our most important friends in the Middle East, Israel and Egypt," department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley told reporters.

Mrs. Oakley said the department would study the communiqué issued by President Mubarak and Mr. Peres. She added that

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Iraqi leaders review situation after describing Iranian offensive as failure

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein and other Iraqi leaders met Saturday to discuss the war with Iran following Tehran's announcement that it was ending its seven-week southern offensive.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said President Hussein presided over a joint meeting of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council and the Baath Party leadership to discuss Iraq's "preparation to face any new Iranian aggression."

Iran said on Thursday its cross-border offensive, launched on Jan. 9, had ended.

The head of the political department of Iraq's Defence Ministry, Abdul Abbar Muhsein, told Reuters on Friday the Iraqis had seized only a strip of land two to three kilometres deep and seven kilometres wide.

"The Iraqis in this area have been bleeding heavily daily losses for the past 50 days without gaining or achieving any aim and even if stretch of land will be recaptured in due time," he said.

Commenting on Iran's claim that its forces had captured about 155 square kilometres of Iraqi territory, Mr. Muhsein said: "This would mean that they are holding Basra now."

"In fact, they haven't even reached areas of Basra's suburbs ... they seized a small village, the Du'aichi, which lies about one kilometre from the border."

Tehran said the aim of the offensive launched on Jan. 9 was to destroy the Iraqi army before a "final and decisive" assault.

Mr. Muhsein said the present position "clearly indicates that Iraq is still keeping its armed forces and equipment intact with full and well organised control over the situation and will continue to hold its superiority over its territory."

Iranian opposition leader Masoud Rajavi, head of the Baghdad-based Mujahadeen-e-Khalq organisation, said Saturday the ending of the Iranian offensive "means an implicit admittance of defeat" by Tehran.

Mr. Rajavi, in a text to news agencies, also called on all United Nations' member states to "impose an oil and arms boycott on the Iranian regime."

A military spokesman said Iraqi anti-aircraft forces shot down two Iranian F-4 fighters on Friday as they tried to enter Iraqi airspace in the south of the country. Both fighter bombers were seen falling in flames inside Iranian

territory, the spokesman said.

Ships attacked

In Bahrain, shipping executives said Iranian gunboats attacked a freighter off the United Arab Emirates on Saturday in the second attack on commercial vessels cruising in the Gulf waters in as many days.

They said the ship, identified only as Sea Empress, was hit by an Iranian missile at 11 a.m., but sustained only minor damage.

An Iranian gunboat has fired at a small Chinese-flag freighter in the first incident in which a vessel from communist China has been caught in the Iran-Iraq tanker war, the executives reported.

The gunboat fired three missiles at the 15,200-tonne Wu Jiang Friday, but they all missed, said the executives.

At about 7:00 p.m. Friday, Iraqi warplanes struck an Iranian shuttle tanker at a point further north, setting it ablaze, the same executives said.

The 280,476-tonne Khark 3 was raided at Ras Al Mutas, about 80 kilometres south of the Iranian port of Bushehr, they said.

Swedes pay tribute to Palme

STOCKHOLM (R) — Tens of thousands of Swedes on Saturday marked the first anniversary of the still-unresolved murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme with a series of low-key, solemn ceremonies marked by private mourning rather than public pomp.

Focal point for the ceremonies, held in 150 towns and cities around Sweden, was Mr. Palme's simple granite grave in Adolf Fredrik Church in central Stockholm.

Only 100 metres along the city's main street, thousands of shoppers paused to file past the spot where Mr. Palme was shot dead by a lone gunman.

The controversies surrounding the unsuccessful hunt for the killer, which have on occasion reduced the murder inquiry to farce, were forgotten as the ordinary people paid silent tribute to the country's former prime minister.

Palme murder trail is still cold, page 5

Americans who stay in Lebanon are not likely to be punished

WASHINGTON (R) — As President Reagan's deadline for Americans to get out of Lebanon expired Saturday, an undetermined number of U.S. citizens remained — and officials said they are unlikely to be punished if they refuse to leave.

The administration has not prosecuted citizens who ignored a 1981 ban on travel to Libya, and this is unlikely to change with regard to Lebanon, the officials told Reuters.

The chances of prosecution were remote, given the historical precedent, said Justice Department spokeswoman John Russell. The point was not to punish Americans but to protect them from kidnappings and other dangers, a State Department official, who asked not to be identified, added.

The State Department announced the new ban on Jan.

28, saying that U.S. passports would no longer be valid for travel to Lebanon after kidnappings brought the total number of foreigners held hostage there to 25, including nine Americans.

The State Department put the number of U.S. passport holders in Lebanon at around 1,500 when the ban was imposed but an official said it had not kept track of Americans who may have left Lebanon since then.

The order gave U.S. citizens already there — most of them dual nationals — 30 days' grace before their passports were invalidated.

The only exceptions allowed were for families of U.S. hostages who might have to travel to Lebanon or journalists, whose requests would be handled on a case-by-case basis.

People who defy the ruling could be prosecuted for misusing their passports, but they are unlikely to see the inside of a courtroom.

"In effect, the ban is being used as the most severe kind of warning we can make," the State Department official said.

Enforcement procedure would entail the State Department referring cases to the Justice Department for prosecution.

But Mr. Russell said that except for the case of U.S. black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan, who broke the ban on visiting Libya, "I don't think (state) has ever made a referral to us."

He said that even though Mr. Farrakhan was referred to the Justice Department a case was never brought against him.

Mr. Reagan has accused Libya, despite its denials, of sponsoring terrorism and barred travel there on grounds of safety.

The ban on Lebanon has caused mixed feelings among Lebanese Americans in the United States.

"You can't remove the terrorists by isolating the Lebanese," said American Lebanese League official David Ferris.

He says travel to Lebanon is safe — if one stays in Falangist-controlled sectors like east Beirut.

"We believe (U.S.) travel could be banned and even the U.S. embassy could be closed but these steps are not enough to stop terrorism," Mr. Ferris said.

Pollard: Israel was fully aware of espionage

WASHINGTON (R) — Confessed spy Jonathan Pollard has contested Israel's assertion that his espionage was a "rouge operation" that took place without the knowledge of the Israeli government.

Pollard, a former U.S. navy intelligence analyst, said in court papers the Israeli government was fully aware he gave Israel top-secret U.S. documents about the military strengths of the Soviet Union and Israel's rivals in the Middle East.

"It is my belief that the government of Israel was fully aware of both my assistance to its intelligence services as well as my true motives in this affair, official documents notwithstanding," he said in court papers filed Friday.

"There were three occasions on which I was told that the highest levels of the Israeli government had purportedly extended their collective thanks for the assistance I had provided the state," he said.

Pollard said the requests for secrets he received suggested a highly coordinated effort by the Israeli army, navy and air force intelligence services.

"Their needs were understandable but insatiable," he said. Pollard last June confessed to selling secrets to an Israeli spy ring for 18 months until his arrest in November 1985 after an unsuccessful bid for asylum at the Israeli embassy in Washington.

Pollard said he gave Israel information on the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) use of anti-aircraft weapons right before the Israeli raid in 1985 on PLO headquarters outside Tunis.

He said he gave Israel secrets about nuclear and chemical warfare advances in the Middle East and detailed information about the Soviet Union's surface-to-air missile system.

"The collection effort was clearly directed against the Soviets and those Arab states which pose a clear and present danger to Israel's security," Pollard said.

He said he also turned over to Israel a wide range of documents on the military strengths of Syria, Libya, Algeria, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt and information that was aimed at prolonging the Iran-Iraq war.

He maintained that he never provided secrets about the United States.

Pollard said he rejected a request by Rafi Eitan, the shadowy Israeli spy master, for information on the activity of the U.S. National Security Agency in Israel and the names of all Israelis giving classified material to the United States.

Prosecutors said Pollard's spying caused enormous damage to U.S. national security.

Soviets, criticising Israel's 'provincial outlook,' call for Mideast conference

TEL AVIV (AP) — In his first interview to Israel's state-run television, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov has criticised Israel's "provincial outlook" and called for an international Middle East peace conference.

"I guess (the international peace conference) was our idea. We would like the permanent members of the (U.N.) Security Council to gather together in a kind of a preparatory committee and to look into the matter of an international conference," Mr. Gerasimov said.

In an interview with the television's European correspondent David Witztum, Mr. Gerasimov also said that "a special commission with representatives of lawyers, scientists and the administrative bodies is now busy reviewing the penal legislation" of the Soviet Union.

It was the first official Soviet reference to the composition of the commission after Mr. Gerasimov announced in Moscow on Feb. 10 that laws prohibiting anti-Soviet slander, agitation and propaganda, along with other parts of the criminal code, being reviewed with the intention of "softening them."

However, Mr. Gerasimov indicated the reforms may not be implemented immediately, since

the review of the penal code "takes time."

Asked whether the reform of the penal code will result in an enlarged Jewish emigration, Mr. Gerasimov said:

"You are provincial in your outlook. You talk about Jews, and Jews, and Jews, and Jews, and this particular legislation (concerns) everybody."

Israel estimates that 400,000 Jews wish to leave the Soviet Union. In 1986, only 947 Jews were allowed to leave the country. According to the government-run Central Bureau of Statistics, only 202 Soviet Jews came to Israel while the rest preferred to emigrate to other Western countries.

The interview was conducted in English via telephone, but Mr. Gerasimov was also seen talking to Witztum on a small television screen in the correspondent's office.

Soviet officials recently have departed from their custom of shunning conversations with Israelis. Since Feb. 19, Mr. Gerasimov himself granted three telephone interviews to Israeli officials and reporters.

During the interview, Mr. Gerasimov criticised Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who on Friday returned to Israel

after a two-day visit to Egypt. Peres and Egyptian leaders said they agreed to push for convening an international Middle East peace conference before the end of the year.

But Mr. Gerasimov said Peres' attempts to bring Jordan and Egypt to the conference table were a "wrong way. Because, you see, it's (the principle of) 'divide and rule'... The Solution can be found normally when everybody gets together" in the framework of an international conference, he said.

Mr. Gerasimov rejected the notion of inviting Peres, head of Israel's left-wing Labour Party, to Soviet Union in order to discuss prospects of convening an international Middle East peace conference.

"What for? To talk about this? Let him (Peres) go to Washington and talk about this with the United States, let him go to Tel Aviv and talk... with Mr. Shamir," Mr. Gerasimov said.

Mr. Shamir, who heads the right-wing Likud Bloc, is opposed to an international conference, and especially to Soviet participation in such a meeting. He succeeded Peres as Israeli prime minister last October under a power-sharing accord that formed the country's coalition government.

Prominent Arab scholar, Mohammad Mahdi, dies

LONDON (Agencies) — Dr. Mohammad Mahdi, one of the most prominent Arab personalities who advocated Arab causes in international forums, has died.

Dr. Mahdi had emigrated to Britain from Iraq towards the end of the 1940s and it was announced that his death Friday was caused

by a sudden illness. Dr. Mahdi had served as professor of mathematics at London University and was one of the founding members of a number of Anglo-Arab institutions such as the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU).

'SLA faces disintegration'

LONDON — The Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, which controls a border strip in South Lebanon, is in danger of collapse in the face of an escalating guerrilla war being waged by Lebanese and Palestinian commandos.

Observers are agreed that Israel will have no option but to step up its own presence in the border area.

The SLA, commanded by Gen. Antoine Lahd, is the successor to a militia headed by Maj. Saad Haddad which controlled the border area prior to the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Following their "final withdrawal" from the country in June 1985, the Israelis handed over the border strip to the SLA, who are charged with preventing commando attacks into Israeli territory.

With an estimated strength of 1,800 men, two thirds of them Christians and one third Shi'ites, the SLA is wholly dependent on the Israelis.

Increasingly daring commando raids staged by the Shi'ite militias Amal and Hizbollah, and by Palestinian groups, however, are taking a heavy toll on the SLA.

In the period between June 1985 and the end of 1986, the militia lost 101 men killed, with twice that number wounded. In 1986 alone, there were 85 SLA deaths, most of them in the last quarter.

The 1987 death toll had already

reached thirteen by 19th January. Morale has collapsed, and hundreds of SLA men have deserted. The situation is so serious that the militia's radio station, the Voice of Hope, has taken to broadcasting reports lauding the SLA's condition.

One such claimed, optimistically, that anyone who knew anything about developments in South Lebanon "will know that the SLA is stronger today than at any other time, and that it enjoys high competence and morale, that are envied by many sides."

The Israelis remain committed to the SLA. In a January speech Maj. Gen. Yossi Peled, the officer who heads Israel's Northern Command, declared: "The Israeli Forces have given, and are giving, and will continue to give all the backing to the SLA that it needs."

The Israelis, however, are seriously concerned. They have already beefed up their presence in the SLA's border strip to one thousand troops, backed by armour, and Israeli air raids on commando bases to the north are becoming increasingly frequent.

After the costly fiasco of its 1982 invasion and occupation, however, Tel Aviv, is extremely reluctant to become too deeply embroiled in Lebanon. It is a quandary which looks set to become increasingly delicate in the coming months. Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) Bulletin.

McFarlane called Iranians paranoid, Tower report says

WASHINGTON (R) — Former U.S. National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane described Iranian officials with whom he negotiated last year as carpet salesmen, according to the Tower Commission report into the scandal.

Mr. McFarlane, admitted to hospital recently after apparently trying to commit suicide by taking a drug overdose, flew to Tehran in May on a mission to negotiate the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon in exchange for arms.

Mr. McFarlane, in cables from Tehran shortly after his arrival, described the thinking of his Iranian hosts as "extreme paranoia."

"It may be best for us to try and picture what it would be like after a nuclear attack if a surviving tartar became vice-president, a recent grad student became secretary of state and a bookie became the interlocutor for all discourse with foreign nations," he said.

He warned the White House against high expectations for a speedy release of the hostages.

"As we proceed we cannot be lulled by promises of what will happen tomorrow. At bottom they really are rug merchants," his cable said.

The British authorities, he suggested, had acted out of a desire to please the Americans, who were anxious to weaken links between Libya and Europe.

The demonstration had been staged in the hope of provoking an incident which could be used as a pretext to sever ties between London and Tripoli," he said.

U.S. pressures on Libya, he said, had little to do with the North African state's policies, but were part of Washington's global efforts to encircle the Soviet Union.

Interviewed last week on Channel 4 Television's Diverse Reports programme, Col. Qadhafi declared: "It's not in our nature to kill innocent people. That policeman, she could

never have been a target for us. She was a security officer concerned with maintaining order and security, and she didn't deserve to be killed."

In a section of the interview which was not broadcast, however, he claimed that the anti-Qadhafi demonstration had been staged not by dissident Libyans but by "unemployed Asians recruited by the British secret police."

The incident prompted Britain to sever diplomatic relations with Tripoli, and London has consistently stressed that a resumption of ties would depend on Libya admitting responsibility for the killing and offering compensation.

Tripoli has claimed from the outset that the shots did not come from the People's Bureau.

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Qadhafi regrets killing of London policewoman

LONDON — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has reiterated his regret at the killing of policewoman Yvonne Fletcher outside the Libyan People's Bureau in St. James's Square in April 1984, although he refused to accept that Libya was responsible for her death.

Fletcher was killed when a gunman in the People's Bureau opened fire on anti-Qadhafi demonstrators in the street outside.

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TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 73111-19	22:00 Evening Show continued 23:00 News Summary 23:57 News Headline 24:00 Close Down
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30 Koran	
15:30 Programme Review	
15:35 Health Clinic	
16:35 A Whole World of Children	
17:00 Risking It All	
17:30 Candid Camera	
18:30 Local Agricultural Programme	
19:30 Arabic Series	
19:30 Local Programme	
19:30 Programme Review	
20:00 News in Arabic	
20:30 Local Programme	
21:00 Tomorrow's programme	
21:30 TV Magazine (local)	
22:00 News summary in Arabic	
23:10 Arabic Series	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:15 Les Cinq Derniers Minutes	
19:00 News in French	
19:15 La Vallée des Peupliers	
19:30 News in Hebrew	
19:45 Varieties	
20:00 News in Arabic	
20:30 Who's the Boss	
21:10 The Day the Universe Changed	
22:00 News in English	
22:20 Springfield's Daughter	
RADIO JORDAN 835 KHz. AM & 90 KHz. FM & partly on 9560 KHz. SW Tel: 74111-19	
07:00 Light Music	
07:30 Newsdesk	
08:00 Morning Show	
10:00 News Summary	
10:05 Pop Session	
11:00 News Summary	
12:00 News Summary	
12:05 Pop Talk	
13:00 News Summary	
13:05 Pop Session contd.	
14:00 News Bulletin	
14:10 News Bulletin	
14:15 Science Reports	
15:00 Concert Hour	
16:00 News Summary	
16:05 News Summary	
17:00 Old Favorites	
18:00 News Summary	
18:05 Jazz Hour	
19:00 Newsdesk	
19:30 Date with a Star	
20:00 Evening Show	
21:00 News Summary	
21:05 Evening Show continued	
21:55 News Summary	

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* An exhibition of plastic arts marking the University of Jordan's silver jubilee at the university (until March 4).	
* An art exhibition by Abdul Naser Odeh at the Jordanian plastic artists association in Jabal Lubdeh (until March 7).	
CINEMA	
* "Paris Texas" at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267	
American Centre - Tel. 64371	
British Council - Tel. 6361478	
French Cultural Centre - Tel. 637009	
German Institute - Tel. 64393	
Soviet Cultural Centre - Tel. 62049	
Spanish Cultural Centre - Tel. 63977	
Turkish Cultural Centre - Tel. 66595	
Hijazi Arts Centre - Tel. 6671816	
Hijazi Youth City - Tel. 64193	
Y.W.C.A. - Tel. 64321	
Amman Municipal Library - Tel. 63711	
Univ. of Jordan Library - Tel. 84355	
MUSEUMS	
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 61760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century orientalist artists. Munta-	
PRAYER TIMES	
06:43 Fajr	
11:08 (Sunrise) Dhuhr	
15:04 Dhuhr	
17:35 Asr	
18:52 Maghreb	
19:00 Isha	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (06) 53300-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
08:00 Athens (RJ)	
08:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	
08:25 Jeddah (RJ)	
08:30 Kuwait (RJ)	
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)	
10:30 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)	
17:30 New York, Amsterdam, London (RJ)	
17:40 Athens (RJ)	
18:00 Berlin, Larnaca (RJ)	
18:05 Zurich, Geneva, Vienna (RJ)	
19:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)	
20:00 Paris, Geneva (RJ)	
01:00 Baghdad (RJ)	
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
02:25 Bucharest (RO)	
05:00 Frankfurt (LF)	
06:30 Larnaca, Amsterdam (KLM)	
08:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)	
10:15 Damascus, Rome (AZ)	
10:30 Larnaca, Berlin (DF)	
12:20 Cairo (MS)	
12:30 Tripoli (TA)	
13:30 Baghdad (IA)	
14:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)	
14:00 Jeddah (SV)	
15:00 Kuwait (EK)	
20:00 Sana'a (LH)	
MONEY EXCHANGE	
Local sell/buy rates in Jds	
Belgian franc 85.4 / 90.3	
Dutch guilder 163.7 / 163.3	
French franc 35.6 / 36.1	
Italian lire 26 / 26.3	
Japanese yen (for 100) 220.7 / 222.9	
Swedish crown 52.3 / 52.8	
Swiss franc 220.5 / 222.2	
U.K. sterling pound 323.3 / 329.2	
U.S. dollar 338.5 / 340.9	
W. German mark 185.1 / 186.9	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be foggy in the morning, but the condition will improve gradually. An increase in temperature is expected, with northwesterly moderate winds. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy, with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.	
DEPARTURES	
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
06:45 Athens (RJ)	
06:50 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)	
10:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)	
11:30 Athens (RJ)	
11:30 Cairo (RJ)	
19:30 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	
21:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)	
21:00 Baghdad (RJ)	
21:00 Jeddah (RJ)	
21:15 Damascus (RJ)	
21:15 Cairo (RJ)	
22:00 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)	
23:00 Bangkok (RJ)	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES	GENERAL
Amman governorate 891228	Jordan Television 7731/19
Amman Civil Defence 192, 199	Radio Jordan 7741/19
Civil Defence Lbaid 271293, 273131	Ministry of Tourism 642311
Civil Defence Qweishneh 770733	Hotel complaints 666412
Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306	Price complaints 661176
Ambulance 193, 775111	Telephone information 12
Amman downtown fire brigade 771258	Jordan and Middle East calls 10
First aid 630341	Overseas calls 17
Blood Bank 77303	Repair service 11
Civil Defence rescue 661111	
Fire headquarters 622033	
Police rescue 192, 62111, 63777	
Police headquarters 639141	
Traffic police 896390/1	
Electric Power Co. 6363814, 624881	
Municipal water complaints 771258	
Queen Alia Int. Airport (06)5330060	

NIGHT DUTY

ADMAR:	
Dr. Bahjat Bader	895362
Dr. Sa'ad Rashid	773500
Kalam Pharmacy	636730
Nelouza Pharmacy	664928
Salaf pharmacy	778655
Firas pharmacy	661912
Sahab pharmacy	669036
Hannawi pharmacy	743576
Ferdows pharmacy	767536
TAXIS:	
Al Wadha taxi	641833
Khaloud taxi	664928
Bassam taxi	811857
Ahli taxi	621127
Hayan taxi	817411
Rehman taxi	812628
Saharun taxi	773834
Mashhour taxi	896743
IRIDI:	
Dr. Subhi Hamada	240194
University pharmacy	
Shara'a pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Nasim Zayat	981656
Hawoz pharmacy	(-)

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Jabal Amman Maternity 624362	
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Shamsi Hospital 669131	
University Hospital 845845/6	
Al-Muhsini Hospital 666127/7	
The Islamic, Abadi 664164/6	
Al-Ahli, Abadi 777101/3	
Al-Basrah, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26	
Aray, Marja 891611/5	
Queen Alia Hospital 62340/50	
Amni Hospital 674155	

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32	
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6	
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644241/2	
Jabal Amman Maternity 624362	
Amman Hospital 626140	
Al-Muhsini Hospital 664171/4	
Shamsi Hospital 669131	
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Jump the sign, pay a fine

AMMAN (J.T.) — Police stations and highway traffic patrol units around the country will today launch a campaign to ensure that motorists respect regulations concerning priorities and vehicles' rights of way on the roads in accordance with traffic regulations.

A spokesman for the Public Security Department (PSD) said that motorists should abide by all regulations, especially those concerning overtaking and giving priority to pedestrians at pedestrian crossings, vehicles in official processions, ambulances and vehicles belonging to the Civil

Defence Department and patrol units. Also, priority should be given to vehicles on main streets and vehicles should stop and give priority to others wherever there is a stop sign at a junction, the spokesman added.

Police departments around the country, in cooperation with highway patrol units, conducted a campaign between Feb. 15 and 24 to clamp down on drivers overtaking other cars in a manner violating traffic rules. More than 12,500 fines were issued to violators in the Amman area during that period.

Driver dies in explosion after straying into minefield

AMMAN (J.T.) — One man was killed and another injured in a land mine explosion in the Jordan Valley region and, according to a spokesman for the Shuneh police station, the incident took place in a no-man's zone which is mined.

The driver, a Kuwaiti national on a picnic in the area, lost his way and entered an anti-personnel mine field by mistake where he hit a mine that caused the car to blow up and burn killing the driver, 27-year old Zakaria Abdul Majid Abu Rumman, and injuring another passenger, Mazen Sweiti, the spokesman said.

The Public Security Department (PSD) reported the incident on Friday night. A report by the Jordan News Agency, Petra said that the driver lost control over his car which ran off the main road and entered the mine

field where it hit the mine. The injured man is now being treated at Salt Government Hospital and, according to a hospital spokesman, he is suffering from several fractures in his arms and legs. The spokesman told the Jordan Times that Mr. Sweiti will take at least four months to heal.

Artillery shell injures picnickers

According to the Public Security Department, an artillery shell blew up when it was thrown onto a fire cooking a meal for family on a picnic in the Sweimeh district of the Jordan Valley region on Friday. The department said that the shell was found by a small boy playing in the area. The explosion injured a woman and another member of the family.

UDD awards Marqa housing project for low income families

AMMAN (Petra) — The Urban Development Department (UDD) is building a housing estate for low income families in Marqa at a cost of JD 1,682,700 to be covered through loans from the World Bank and the Housing Bank.

According to Dr. Hisham Al Zagha, the director general of the UDD, the project is to be completed in two years and will comprise 664 housing units on a 245 dunum piece of land. The beneficiaries will be low income families, Dr. Zagha said in a statement.

He said that the UDD has already announced a tender for the implementation of the civil works at the project site which

will include civil defence and vocational training centres, and schools for boys and girls in addition to other basic services. The tender will be awarded to a construction firm in May, Dr. Zagha added.

In addition, Dr. Zagha said that the UDD plans to build housing estates during this year in a number of regions, including a project at Umm Nuwara. The tender will be announced as soon as the documents have been completed, he said.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan and the director of the company which will carry out the project signed the contract in Amman.

Antiquities from historical site to go on display in Belgium

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian archaeological exhibition of antiquities from the historical site of Udhruh in the south will open on March 7 at the Royal Belgian Museum of Arts and History. The event has been organised by the Department of Antiquities in cooperation with a British archaeological mission. On display at the exhibition, which will run until the end of April, will be Roman, Byzantine and Islamic antiquities as well as maps and photos which relate the history of this important village, located between Ma'an and Petra in the southern region of Jordan.

The historical village of Udhruh used to serve as a caravan station during the Nabatean

age and was transformed into a military camp in the Third Century A.D. Department of Antiquities sources said that the exhibition will later be held in a number of European museums. The event was held in British museums last year within the framework of existing cooperation between Jordan and European Community (EC) countries.

An exhibition of Jordanian antiquities and history was also organised at the Luxembourg Museum in Paris on Nov. 25. The exhibition moved back to Amman on Jan. 25, 1987 and is expected to be displayed again in Cologne, West Germany, in October.

Education committee draws up job descriptions for departments

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education's education committee held a meeting on Saturday to discuss working papers dealing with job descriptions for the ministry's various departments.

The departments in question are finance, curriculum, educational supervision, cultural relations, student affairs and general administration.

Corporation processing applications for units at Abu Nuseir estate

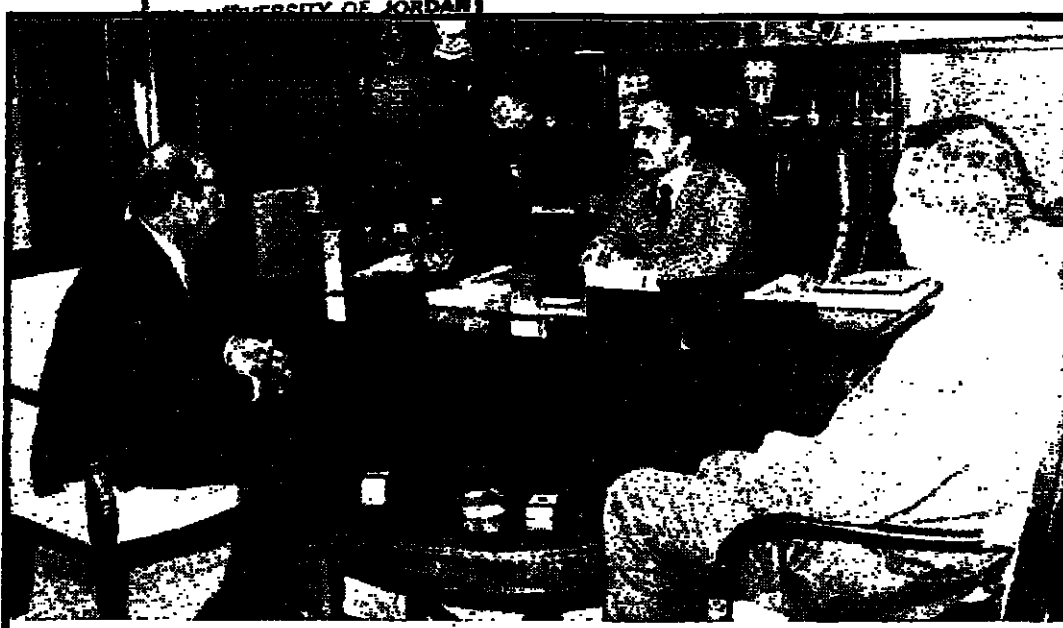
AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Corporation is now involved in processing applications from civil servants wishing to purchase housing units at the Abu Nuseir housing estate, Housing Corporation Director Shafiq Zawaidah announced on Saturday. He said that the distribution of units will be based on the applicants' length of service in the government, number of family members and other factors.

The Housing Corporation has so far received 2,200 applications for the housing units and the door will remain open for more applications until March 15, in implementation of a government decision which said applications would be taken for three months, Mr. Zawaidah said.

On Feb. 15 the government revised the prices of housing units at the Abu Nuseir estate and decided on a number of other measures to make it easier for beneficiaries to pay their instalments.

Since then, the Housing Corporation has been inundated with applications for ownership of the vacant units.

The beneficiaries have now been exempted from paying a down payment and will not have to cover the cost of additional public services. They may also spread their monthly instalment payments over 30 years instead of 25. The Housing Corporation has provided basic services and transport facilities for the residents and is building roads to further facilitate transportation from and to the Abu Nuseir estate.



REGENT VISITS PRIME MINISTRY — for talks with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. The meeting was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem (Petra photo)

Canadian parliamentarians conclude visit

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of Canadian parliamentarians on Saturday wound up a several-day visit to Jordan during which they held talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and senior Jordanian officials.

The talks between the five-member delegation and Jordanian officials covered means and ways of boosting bilateral trade relations and broadening the scope of cooperation in all fields.

In a press conference after a visit to the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, head of the Canadian delegation Senator Lorne Bonnell said that the Israeli coalition government led by Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, may well "break up over the issue of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East."

The clash between the Israeli premier and his foreign minister Shimon Peres, the Labour Party leader, is said to be reaching a head over prospects for convening such a conference, Dr. Bonnell said. He told reporters on Wednesday evening that he expected government elections to

take place in Israel should the present coalition government collapse.

During their stay in Amman, the Canadian delegation also held talks with Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Lower House Speaker Akel Al Fayez on means of boosting parliamentary ties between the two countries.

Support for King Hussein

Members of the delegation voiced their support for His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours to convene an international peace conference to reach a peaceful settlement to the Middle East conflict. Dr. Bonnell said his fellow parliamentarians would ask their government to increase financial assistance earmarked for the Arab inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Prospects of funding development projects envisaged in the Kingdom's five-year development plan for both banks of Jordan will also be followed up, the Canadian parliamentarians told reporters.

During their visit to the occupied territories, the parliamentarians met with Bethlehem Mayor

Elias Freij and a number of Palestinian lawyers, journalists and public figures. They also made field visits to the Palestinian refugee camps in the Gaza Strip.

Regarding trade cooperation between Jordan and Canada, the delegation's talks focused on prospects of increasing the volume of bilateral trade. The trade balance is currently in Canada's favour.

Canada is contemplating the prospect of increasing trade exchange with Jordan, said Senator Bonnell. He said that his country was interested in importing Jordanian agricultural produce and certain types of fertilisers, including sulphuric acid. In return, Jordan would import Canadian wheat and technical equipment.

Flights to Montreal

Senator Bonnell noted that bilateral cooperation was expected to be further boosted this year by the introduction of an air link between Amman and Montreal in Canada. The national carriers of the two countries are currently discussing the new air route, he added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Swareddahab visits television company

AMMAN (Petra) — Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swareddahab, former head of the military council in Sudan, who is currently on a visit to Jordan, Saturday visited the Jordanian Company for Television, Radio and Film production. He was briefed by the company's chairman of the board of directors and director general Jawad Maraga on its development and advanced technical capabilities. Field Marshal Swareddahab also toured the company's engineering sections and studios and met technicians and staff working at the company.

Dudin holds talks with Freij

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin Saturday held a meeting with Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij to review the situation of Bethlehem Municipality and its development projects. Mr. Dudin stressed his ministry's keenness to help implement pressing and necessary projects in the occupied Arab territories, especially projects which serve the largest possible sector of Arab citizens.

Khayyat arrives in Cairo

CAIRO (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat arrived in Cairo on Saturday to take part in a conference on housing in the Islamic world. The conference is organised by Azhar University in cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). The conference will discuss subjects pertaining to the development of human resources in the Islamic world, population growth, the protection of children and mothers and other related topics as well as conditions in the occupied Arab territory.

CAEU to attend meeting on technology

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) is to take part in a meeting by experts on technology and development which is due to open in Kuwait on Monday. The experts will discuss a working paper on trade relations and the transfer of technology, patterns of existing industries, their needs of technology and foreign trade among other important topics. Taking part in the three-day meeting are experts from various Arab countries and regional and international organisations.

Madaba hospital gets incubator unit

MADABA (Petra) — The Health Ministry has set up an incubator unit at Madaba Government Hospital, according to Dr. Haitham Haddad, the hospital's director. He also said that the number of beds has been increased by 14 and that the hospital offers services to the city's residents and neighbouring regions. At present, the ministry is building an annex to the hospital to serve as a theatre room at a cost of JD 25,000, Dr. Haddad said.

Local products to get more exposure

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan trade centres corporation plans to organise four exhibitions of national industries in Arab capitals during this year with the dual aim of boosting Jordanian exports and introducing new Jordanian products to Arab markets. The corporation's director general Ghazi Diab said that the four exhibitions will be organised in Tunis during June, in Cairo during July, in Sana'a during September and in Jeddah during October.

Symposium hears facts, figures on drugs, addiction in Jordan

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh Saturday called on all the concerned parties to join in efforts to stem the steadily increasing use of drugs in the Kingdom.

In an opening speech to a symposium on drugs, Dr. Hamzeh said that the increase in drug abuse is against Jordanian society's religious and social morals. He said that although the problem is a new one in Jordan, it should be stopped before it grows otherwise it will become more difficult to solve.

The minister noted that the Public Security Department (PSD) has been doing a good job in combating drug smuggling into Jordan. But he called on all other concerned parties — private sector doctors, families, educational institutions, and son on — to treat and help users and to warn non-users against the harmful effects of drugs. He said: "The problem should not be hidden. Drug addiction is an illness which can and should be treated."

Dr. Mawveh Bakri, president of the Arab Women Graduates Club which organised the day-long symposium, said that the seminar was a first step towards establishing the extent of the drug problem in Jordan and to find solutions to the problem.

The morning session of the seminar included three working papers, first presented by the head of the anti-narcotics department at the PSD, Colonel Hashem Qaisi who reviewed the dimensions of the drug problem in Jordan.

Col. Qaisi went on to explain that drug smuggling and dealing began to increase gradually in Jordan, which was and still is used as a transit point for drugs. However, 20 per cent of the drugs coming through the Kingdom stay in the country, he added.

The colonel said that members of the public are usually cooperative with his department and have helped investigations into several cases of hashish dealing. "If we want to stop drugs from getting on to the streets, we must find and arrest the dealers. And citizens must cooperate with us to achieve this," he underlined.

He also requested the press to be careful about their reports on the problem: "This could easily

encourage the young to try to smoke hashish to satisfy their curiosity," he said.

Col. Qaisi said that in 1985, 601 people — Jordanians, Arabs and foreigners — were arrested for drug use and selling hashish, heroin, opium, and pills. In 1986, the number of people arrested, also from different countries, went down to 286. In the first two months of this year, 67 people were caught dealing with different types of drugs.

Medical aspects

Dr. Mohammad Shreim, director of the health education department at the Ministry of Health, explained the medical aspects of drug abuse. He said that difficult circumstances and the social background of a person could lead to drug abuse. The doctor said that in order to prevent a person from using drugs, the family environment must be stable.

Dr. Shreim added that a 1979 study in Jordan showed that 40 per cent of those who turned to drugs did so because of socio-economic reasons. The study also showed that 31 per cent of addicts were illiterate; 22 per cent had an elementary education; 19 per cent a middle school education, 17 per cent had high school education and 13 per cent were university graduates. The doctor went on to say that the study also showed that 48 per cent of drug addicts had served prison terms for other crimes and 12 per cent had spent time in rehabilitation centres.

General survey

Dr. Shreim said that the national committee for combating drugs — which includes rep-

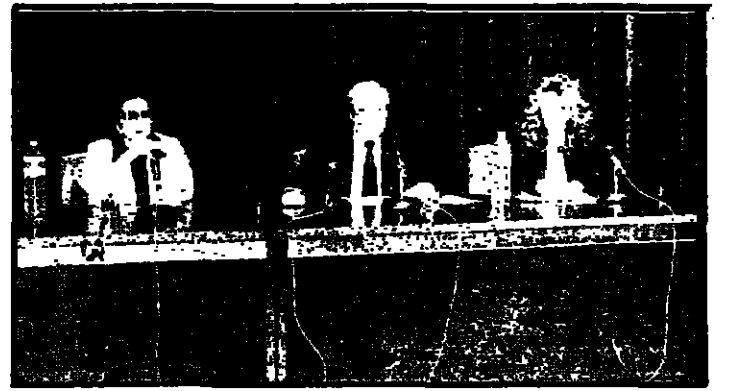
resentatives from seven different ministries, universities, and the private sector — started taking steps towards obtaining as much information as possible on the drug problem through a complete general survey. He said that this survey was necessary for planning, identifying objectives, and executing a drug prevention campaign.

In his lecture, Dr. Ahmad Khalaf, a neuro-psychiatrist, outlined methods used to cure different forms of drug addiction. He said that an addict does not need sympathy or affection as much as he needs sincere love and professional help to overcome his addiction. He said that a doctor must learn everything about the addict's life and relationships in order to achieve this.

The psychiatrist explained that one of the ways to cure someone addicted to hard drugs (such as heroin) is by "cold turkey." This is when an addict does not take any drugs at all and has to overcome a physical and mental craving for narcotics. He said this withdrawal period is very painful for an addict and could last up to two weeks.

After an addict's physical rehabilitation, Dr. Khalaf said that in order to psychologically cure an addict, a doctor must try to help the patient get to know his original personality again. The doctor said another way is to let the patient find out for himself what social instability could have led to his use of drugs.

Dr. Khalaf added that one step would be to change his job if he was unhappy with it. The doctor also said that after a patient is cured and leaves the hospital, he must be kept under surveillance for some time to make sure he does not return to taking drugs.



Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh Saturday addresses a one-day symposium on drugs and addiction in Jordan (Petra photo)

Murphy due in Mideast next week, Abdul Meguid says

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. views on the international conference were well known. They are the most direct Israeli-Arab talks are the most vital step to peace, and that if an international conference would achieve this it could be considered.

In Geneva, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official on Friday ruled out the possibility of an international conference

this year and said he did not "foresee it for some time to come."

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department and the organisation's foreign policy spokesman, said at a press conference the PLO supported international talks "as one of the main means" to bring peace to the Middle East.

He stressed, however, that the PLO has called for U.N.-sponsored talks and noted that Israel

was unlikely to agree to take part.

Mr. Kaddoumi took issue with a statement Friday by Mr. Peres that the PLO "has excluded itself in our judgment" from the Mideast peace process.

"He is not a party who should judge whether we should be in the process of peace. It is the PLO," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

Asked whether an international peace conference could be held this year, he said: "No, it is not possible."

Reagan praises ex-chief of staff as Baker prepares to move in.

(Continued from page 1)

Reagan's management style.

Mr. Reagan took some of the heat off himself with the appointment of Mr. Baker, 61, who gave up his own presidential ambitions to take the White House job.

Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy, who also had White House aspirations at one time, said Mr. Reagan had made "an inspired choice."

"It would have taken Howard Baker about one second to veto the arms deal with Iran," Mr. Kennedy said.

Mr. Baker, a moderate conservative, became Senate Republican leader in 1977. He resigned from the Senate in 1985 to pursue

his presidential ambitions.

He formally ended his undeclared campaign for the Republican presidential nomination on Friday, saying his duties as White House chief of staff would make it inappropriate for him to continue.

Mr. Reagan on Friday called Mr. Baker "a man of unquestioned integrity and ability."

In continuing contentions over the Iran arms deal, Abba Eban, chairman of an Israeli commission investigating the affair, said Friday that Israel assisted the United States in the sales of arms in the belief they had been approved by President Reagan.

"Obviously, most of the responsibility concerning the affair

lies with the United States," Mr. Eban said, referring to the Tower Commission's report.

Mr. Eban, a former Israeli foreign minister, told a news conference the presidential commission report made clear the United States was seeking the release of hostages in the Middle East and a link to influential officials in Iran.

"It is our right to sell arms to Iran," Mr. Eban said. "When the operation began in 1985, we assisted the United States to secure its interest in Iran by making deals in September, 1985, and thereafter."

"Israel did this under the conviction it had been approved and asked for by the United States president," he said.

Lebanese and Syrian leaders discuss west Beirut security plan

(Continued from page 1)

Suleiman Franjeh.

He said he was happy to see "murderers and thieves disappear from the city streets."

The United States said Friday that Syria had assumed a grave responsibility in moving to help end fighting in Beirut.

But, in a statement issued by the State Department, it also stressed that this effort to bring law and order to the streets must be followed by reforms that restore Lebanese central government authority.

"In deploying troops into west Beirut, the Syrian government has announced it will assist the legally-constituted authorities of Lebanon in restoring order to the city, which we believe is an important obligation," spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley told reporters.

"This police function is a grave responsibility," she said.

However, Oakley also said that "without immediate progress on long-term political and security reforms which enjoy the support

of all Lebanese communities, restoration of the effective authority throughout the country — the foundation of Lebanon's sovereignty, unity and independence — cannot be achieved."

She reiterated the long-standing U.S. position that all foreign forces should withdraw from Lebanon but, as with other official U.S. comments recently, refrained from criticising the Syrian action.

At a congressional hearing on Tuesday, Secretary of State George Shultz suggested the Syrian intervention was welcome, at least as a short-term measure. There are at least 25 foreigners, including eight Americans, held hostage in Lebanon and some officials and analysts are hopeful that the Syrians could win their release.

A senior Syrian intelligence officer has said Syria continued to seek freedom for foreign hostages in Lebanon, but did not know where they were held and would weigh carefully any move to rescue them by force.

"It is a humanitarian issue. We have not in the past and will not now spare any effort to solve this problem," Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, Syria's military intelligence chief in Lebanon, told Reuters and the Visnews television agency on Friday.

"We have no information on the whereabouts of the hostages," he said in an interview at Syrian headquarters in Beirut's seafloor Ramlet Al Baida district.

A senior Lebanese militia official has said most of the 27 foreigners now missing in Lebanon, including British church envoy Terry Waite, are held by the Iranian-backed Hizbollah.

Hizbollah denies any links with kidnappers of foreigners. Asked if the Syrians would use force to rescue foreign hostages should they deploy in the suburbs, Brig. Kanaan said the hostages' safety was very important.

"This problem requires the utmost in careful, mature and accurate handling, to achieve a positive result and avoid causing any harm," he said.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Tower over Israel

It may well be futile to highlight such facts considering the American soft spot to Israeli transgressions. But, at the risk of stating the obvious, it appears that Israel dragged the U.S. into a policy which Israel had determined to be in its interest, and that Israeli officials assisted American officials in violating U.S. laws. With this in mind, we can only wonder at the extent of American tolerance for Israeli arrogance; but if the Iran arms scandal is any indication, it appears that such tolerance is limitless. Instead of making Donald Regan the scapegoat, perhaps the American government and the American people would be well advised to re-examine the U.S.' reliance on Israel for its Middle East policy. Or is this too much to ask of Washington?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: France leads peace move

WE are satisfied to learn of the imminent French diplomatic moves aimed at corroborating the European Community's recent declaration on the Middle East. France plans to hold contacts with Washington and Moscow to follow up on the European declaration that endorses the idea of an international conference to bring lasting peace to the Middle East. We are deeply satisfied to learn that the coming French moves hinge on the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which provide for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory. This means that France is serious about putting the European declaration into practice, and also means that France wants to offer the U.S. administration a fresh opportunity to assume a positive attitude towards the proposed conference. The U.S. administration which on Thursday issued a call for international efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war is clearly concerned with regaining credibility. For this to happen, Washington ought to take a constructive attitude towards the Arab-Israeli conflict and should seek to establish a just peace in our region.

Al Dustour: Western bias

PRINCE Hassan has noted in a message to a conference on violence and politics in Cairo that the Western nations have been deliberately linking Arabs and Muslims with world violence. He said that such linkage has not only appeared in the Western press but also expressed by Western leaders. The orchestrators of this campaign in the West try to present the Arabs and Muslims as people born with a tendency towards violence, and that they have inherited this character and now are putting it into practice in their daily lives. It is definitely not ignorance of the true situation that prompts such falsehoods because the Western nations have ruled the Arabs and Muslims in the colonial era and know a lot about these people and their countries. Those responsible for such campaigns on the Arabs and Muslims try to mislead the world by their attacks and by overlooking the real motives behind any form of violence in this part of the world. In his message Prince Hassan made it clear that the Western nations bear a great deal of the responsibility for what is happening at present, and the continued violence and struggle that prevail in this region.

Sawt Al Shaab: Saudis campaign for summit

SAUDI Arabia is to be strongly commended for its sincere efforts aimed at convening an Arab summit conference which would help re-build solidarity among Arab states. These efforts are being made at a time when international efforts continue for convening an international conference on the Middle East and as the situation in Lebanon is stabilising and the Iranian aggression continuing to recede. It should be noted that an Arab summit and a strong Arab stand at this particular moment is of vital importance because the Arabs need a concerted stand with which to confront these issues and bring an end to all problems that plagued the Arabs for so long. The Arabs are in dire need of a unity of ranks for the sake of handling all forms of pressure on them and all forms of aggression and for ending all internal differences.

Both sides are right in democratic debate

rough estimation of revenues and expenditures. They say that unforeseen circumstances may arise after the initial approval of the budget which may call for further government allocations. Certain specific examples were given: The fuel subsidy for 1984 was estimated in the budget at JD 14.5 million but actually it exceeded JD 36.9 million. No subsidy for agricultural products was estimated in the 1984 budget, but ultimately it reached JD 4.2 million. The solution of Abu Nseir housing project has cost the government some JD 30 million for which the budget has no allocations. Another example is fluctuations in exchange rate where the

What applies to agricultural subsidy equally applies to the JD 30 million appropriated to subsidise the inflated cost of the Abu Nseir

The lively debate is both interesting and healthy. It demonstrates the advantages of separating the three branches of state, and of adhering to the checks and balances embodied in the constitution — one of the most advanced constitutions in the Arab World. It is common knowledge that democracy means some inconveniences to the government, but it is worth the price.

One-time Watergate prober to help Reagan

By Evans Witt
The Associated Press

His choice by Reagan brought praise from both Democrats and Republicans that he would help heal the wounds opened by the controversy over the administration's sales of arms to Iran and the diversion of funds to the contra rebels in Nicaragua.

He had doubts about Reagan's economic proposals. But he put his reservations aside and steered the president's tax and spending cuts and military buildup to passage in 1981.

Baker also earned the undying

opposition of many members of the conservative wing of the Republican Party. As minority leader, he helped assure passage of the controversial Panama Canal treaties negotiated by former President Carter, a Democrat.

Baker was born Nov. 15, 1925, into a staunchly Republican and deeply political family. His father, Howard H. Baker Sr., served in the House of Representatives from 1951 until he died in January 1964. His

In 1966 he tried again, defeating Democratic governor Frank Clement in the Senate race. He was re-elected twice.



Howard H. Baker
lived run at the Republican presidential nomination, announcing his candidacy Nov. 1, 1979, and withdrawing from the race March 5, 1980.

In 1984, Baker announced his retirement from the Senate, to take the time to practise law again and to work on a 1988 bid for the White House. But again and again in 1986 and 1987, Baker delayed and delayed making a final decision to run for the nomination.



Signs of a thaw in Sino-Soviet relations

By Stephen Nisbet
Reuter

The frontier has seen many armed clashes between the soldiers from the two sides, notably in 1969 when Soviet authorities registered almost 500 infringements and skirmishes within three months.

One diplomat said Peking regarded other issues, such as the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan and above all Moscow's support for Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea, as blocking the way to far-reaching rapprochement with Moscow.

That conference is expected to be the occasion for reshuffling China's leadership. One contender for top political office, Vice-Premier Li Peng, studied engineering in Moscow and is thought to be more at ease in dealing with

Polisario marks anniversary of self-proclaimed Saharan republic

By Charles Lambelin
Reuter

Hundreds of kilometres away, Moroccan troops, who already

LET

The SADR is now recognised by 65 Third World countries and became a full OAU member in 1984.

New NATO supreme commander will be as outspoken as Rogers

By Charles Aldinger
Reuter

missiles in 10 years, is being forced by Reagan to retire as one of the most popular allied commanders since Dwight Eisenhower 37 years ago.

U.S. officials said while Galvin might not be as publicly insistent

He has spoken out often in support of U.S. military aid to contra guerrillas opposing the leftist government in Nicaragua, regarded by Washington as a Soviet

LETTERS

No thanks

To the Editor:

Goodbye, and thanks, but.... no thanks! Now, where's my JD 7.00....

Roy Williams
Travel Consultant

Palme murder trial is still cold

Intersecting warfare within the Swedish police and justice ministry, plus allegations of harassment and political chicanery, mean that apprehension of the murderer of Olof Palme is as far away as ever, says Kevin Done.

STOCKHOLM — A small mound of frozen red roses still marks the spot on a grey, icy pavement in the centre of Stockholm where Olof Palme, Sweden's prime minister, was killed by an assassin's bullet a year ago.

A couple of hundred yards away in the graveyard of the Adolf Fredrik church, the snow is swept away from a grave whose headstone bears the simple signature, Olof Palme.

Twelve months after the assassination, Swedish police appear to be no nearer to finding the killer than when the first flowers were scattered on the blood-stained pavement where Mr. Palme fell.

The bullets found by passersby within 48 hours of the murder remain the only concrete leads in the search.

There is no murder weapon, no motive, no murderer — and in recent days, almost no murder hunt.

The investigation has ground ominously to a halt as a long festering feud between the police and the public prosecutor's office has burst into the open.

By turns, the Palme murder hunt has provided both nightmare and farce.

The chief public prosecutor in Stockholm has publicly cast doubt on the main line of investigation pursued by the police; the police have scorned alternative leads suggested by the prosecutors. And while the two arms of the law do battle, public concern is growing over whether a police force under extraordinary pressure to produce results may have violated the legal rights of suspects.

Concern has focused on alleged police harassment of Sweden's Kurdish minority, and in particular suspected sympathisers of the PKK, the Kurdish Workers' Party which the authorities have branded as a terrorist group.

Only days after the murder, a member of the security police warned: "We will pursue Kurds with a blow-lamp and stress and harass them to force a leak."

Since then, the feud between police and prosecutors has reached a near hysterical pitch. Furious prosecutors are understood to have accused the police, in the course of a secret meeting with Mr. Sten Wickbom, justice minister, of planning action against the Kurdish community which would rival the political detention campaign conducted by the Chilean junta after the overthrow of President Allende.

Mr. Ingvar Carlsson, prime minister, has so far managed to prevent the murder hunt feud turning into a political crisis for his government.

The opposition has shied away from scoring political points from the disarray, but the quality of Mr. Carlsson's leadership is clearly on trial.

Sweden, with a keen eye on their international image, have been deeply embarrassed by the fiasco. No event in recent history has had such a deep impact on the country as the assassination of the prime minister as he strolled home with his wife from the cinema.

The manner of the killing struck at the core of the country's open society. It was the sort of event which was unthinkable in Sweden. That the subsequent murder hunt should have degenerated into a public quarrel between the country's most senior legal officers has been a demoralising experience.

For a country which prides itself on giving asylum to the persecuted, the evidence of harassment of Kurdish refugees has been particularly dispiriting.

A certain degree of "creative tension" is built into the Swedish criminal investigation system: while the public prosecutor's office formally heads the investigation the police carry out the practical detective work. The two are supposed to work as a team — they have seldom done so in the current case.

From the start, the investigation was taken over personally by Mr. Hans Holmer, the controversial Stockholm police commissioner, effectively number two in the Swedish police hierarchy. Recently, Mr. Holmer was replaced at the helm by his boss Mr. Holger Romander, the national police commissioner. Ultimate responsibility for the hunt is now to be shared between Mr. Romander and Mr. Magnus Sjöberg, the national public prosecutor.

It was Mr. Holmer's assumption of direct control at the outset which sparked the row with the public prosecutor's office.

The arrangement came under heavy strain in the first weeks of the hunt, as Mr. Holmer's suspicions moved heavily against a man who became known throughout Sweden as "the 33-year-old."

The man was charged with taking part in the murder, but within days was released for lack



Olof Palme

of firm evidence. Subsequently, Mr. K.G. Svensson, the senior prosecutor on the case, resigned, claiming that the 33-year-old's legal rights had been seriously violated.

An investigation of the matter by Mr. Bengt Hamdahl, chancellor of justice, found that Mr. Holmer had failed to show "a necessary will to co-operate" with the prosecutor. He rejected claims that the 33-year-old's rights had been violated, but accused the police of "negligence" in the way they conducted identity parades with key eyewitnesses.

"The conflicts seemed above all to have arisen from personal antagonism," he concluded. To try to balance the powerful presence of the hard-bitten Mr. Holmer, the prosecutor's role was taken over last summer by Mr. Claes Zeime, the chief prosecutor in Stockholm. However, that relationship has proved equally unworkable.

Mr. Holmer fell almost too easily into the stereotype of the tough, handsome police chief, willing to bend the rules a bit for a just cause. With his love for leather jackets and jogging kit he stood out among his more conventionally dressed colleagues.

Early on, he created his own heroic imagery for describing the hunt. He spoke of a thousand candles burning — as one lead was eliminated and a light was extinguished, so another was lit. Later the inquiry became a trawling through heavy seas with Mr. Holmer as captain. A lighthouse flashing on the horizon told him he was on the right course.

Sweden wanted very much to believe him. The alternative was too hopeless.

Once suspicions against the 33-year-old were discarded, the focus of the hunt was switched to what Mr. Holmer described as the "huvudspar", or main track.

Police imposed blanket surveillance — including extensive telephone tapping — on a small section of the Kurdish immigrant community associated with the PKK, a Marxist-Leninist group established in Turkey in the 1970s to fight for an independent Kurdistan, a region presently divided between Iraq, Iran and Turkey.

The PKK has been active in Sweden for several years. In 1984 and 1985, two defectors from the group were murdered by PKK sympathisers, one in the street in Uppsala, and one in Stockholm.

Under Mr. Holmer's leadership, the police sought to substantiate the suspicion that the Palme murder was a contract killing ordered by the PKK leadership, based in Damascus.

The public prosecutors led by Claes Zeime have not shared the same conviction.

Police swooped on Kurdish and other suspects in January, picking up 20 people for interrogation. But within hours of the dawn raids, all had been released, on the orders of the prosecutors, because of lack of evidence.

The police were outraged at the precipitate release of the suspects and accused the prosecutors of "sabotaging" the investigation.

Several other theories have been put forward to explain the assassination. A Soviet film shown on Swedish television, for instance, points the finger firmly at Western intelligence services and ultimately the CIA.

Other leads have suggested a contract murder organised by a group of rich and disaffected Swedish exiles, an assassination with involvement by a fanatical neo-Nazi group, a motive stemming from some unknown part of Mr. Palme's private life or simply the work of a lunatic.

It is still not clear to what extent Mr. Holmer's influence has been removed from the investigation. He is now a member of a three-man advisory group to the national police commissioner, and leaks from the police leadership make it clear that the PKK line of inquiry will not be given up.

When Mr. Holmer first heard of the assassination he was on his way to take part in his 18th annual Vasaloppet, a gruelling 89-km cross-country ski race in central Sweden. "Even if there was not any snow, he would finish the race. He would never give in," says one close police colleague of Mr. Holmer — Financial Times feature.

Brain cell transplants — new hope for Parkinson's victims?

By Claudia Rader
Reuter

CAMBRIDGE, England — Hundreds of thousands of people suffering from Parkinson's disease and other neurological disorders could be helped by brain cell transplants, say doctors experimenting with the revolutionary technique.

The procedure, which involves the injection of foetal brain tissue deep into the brain of the patient, has been highly successful in laboratory animals and could soon be tested in humans, according to Cambridge scientist Dr. Stephen Dunnet, who has pioneered the work on laboratory rats.

"Our results have been very encouraging... under some circumstances one can achieve complete recovery of neurological impairments that in all other senses are irreversible," he told Reuters in his laboratory at the university's experimental psychology wing.

Rats which have been partially or totally crippled through drug-induced brain damage showed complete recovery one to three months after receiving transplants of brain tissue from rat foetuses, he said.

The brain damage induced in the rats closely resembled that of Parkinson's disease victims, who gradually lose their motor control through degeneration of the dopamine system, which governs movement, Dunnet said.

This is usually accompanied by a stiffening of facial muscles, a flattening of the vocal range into a monotone and a coarse tremor and is often followed by the onset of senility.

Surgery and drugs have been variously successful in alleviating some of these symptoms. But Dunnet said brain cell grafts, if successful, could revolutionise current therapy.

In his experiments, the foetal tissue — the most successful kind to use because of its flexibility of development — attaches itself to

the rats' dopamine cells and eventually copies them.

As the damaged cells are restored, Dunnet found the rats completely recover basic movement, though the grafts were less successful in restoring precise manual dexterity and eating and drinking habits.

"It's a very exciting prospect," said John Cleave, senior neurosurgeon at Cambridge's Addenbrooke Hospital, where some 25 Parkinson's patients are being treated.

But the technique — also being tested in other European countries and the United States — raises a myriad of ethical questions about the use of human foetal tissue. Scientists say the debate could delay a go-ahead on the operation for years.

Under British abortion law, pregnancies can be terminated up to 28 weeks after conception, after which the foetus is considered viable. Foetuses used for brain transplants would be no more than nine to 10 weeks old.

But anti-abortion activists have said they are lobbying to have the matter raised in parliament.

"Any technique using human embryo tissue or aborted foetuses is totally unethical and unacceptable. Our position is that life begins at conception and we object utterly to the use of the living human embryo in any medical technique whatsoever," said Christopher Whitehouse, spokesman for the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child.

So far the British medical community has been silent on the issue.

Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, president of the Royal College of Physicians, told Reuters that it could be discussed at a working party on the use of foetuses due to meet later this year. But he said the work was still largely experimental and it could be "quite some time" before human brain cells transplants were approved in Britain.

Meanwhile, the Swedish Society of Medicine has issued a set of

guidelines on the use of human foetal tissues for transplants after two years of debate on the ethics involved. Doctors there are said to be planning the first such grafts later this year.

Under the Swedish restrictions, the foetus must be dead, the operation must have the consent of the foetus's mother and there must be no relation between the mother and the graft recipient to avoid the intentional growing of foetuses for transplants.

A successful graft by the Swedish team could encourage other countries to address the ethical questions and so clear the way for similar work at home, Dunnet said. But he cautions against over-optimism.

Because the precise cause of Parkinson's disease is unknown, it is impossible to determine how much success, if any at all, the technique used in animals will have in humans.

And so far, the animal experimentation has been most success-

ful in simply restoring movement and not some of the other symptoms suffered by Parkinson's victims. There is no way to tell, for instance, whether the characteristic tremor and the onset of senility can be averted.

But even these preliminary results hold out enormous hope to Parkinson's victims eager for any chance to ease their pain, Dunnet said.

"I get four to five letters a day from patients and their families wanting to be guinea pigs before we're even talking about trying the transplants in humans," he said.

He concedes the possibilities are staggering and says that the experiments suggest the technique could even be used to treat other types of neurological disorders such as Huntington's chorea, which causes uncontrollable bursts of movement.

"If it works, it's a revolution... It could prove a very important medical frontier," he said.

In Japan, rush hour is porn hour

By Jim Impoco
The Associated Press

TOKYO — On crowded commuter trains, well-dressed businessmen, uniformed students and other mainstream Japanese casually thumb through newspapers and magazines liberally laced with sex.

Pornography is pervasive in Japan. Vending machines sell sex magazines and comics. Network television features footage from peep shows. Mass circulation newspapers carry ads showing nude women trussed up in ropes.

Shopping centres display glossy poster-sized pictures of undressed schoolgirls.

"We feel as though we're having this stuff inflicted upon us wherever we go," says Nanae Sakamoto, a 34-year-old high school teacher.

To make her point, she opened the day's issue of a popular daily sports newspaper and began to read. She became lost behind a dozen black and white photos of naked women advertising sexually oriented products and services such as "scapalands," as massage parlours are known in Japan.

Ms. Sakamoto belongs to the Tokyo-based Women's Action Group, which has singled out the ubiquitous sports papers in a campaign against pornography. Her group uses the slogan: "Rush hour is porn hour."

Japan's top seven sports tabloids have a combined circulation of about 4 million. Almost all of them feature nude photos, usually in the form of ads for sex videos and magazines, hostess bars and even prostitution, which is illegal in Japan.

"Sports papers are not the worst pornography around, but there's no escaping them," said Yoshiko Hasegawa, 29, another group member. "Because they're so conspicuous and so commonplace, they invade our lives. Being subjected to these papers on trains is like being physically molested."

Japan has strict censorship laws, including a complete ban on depiction of public hair in film and print. The government employs people to delete such material from imported magazines and movies. But Japanese directors and publishers are free to depict almost anything else, and find ways to push the censorship laws to the limit.

Ms. Hasegawa said the group has targeted sports tabloids as its first step in combating what she

said is an unchecked proliferation of pornography in Japan.

In a recent survey, a magazine found the country's nine leading men's magazines devoted more space to sex-related articles than any other subject, she said. Business stories ranked second.

She added: "We aren't looking to make all pornography illegal. We'd just like to foster enough awareness to make people realise how rude they're being when they read this stuff in public."

According to Ms. Sakamoto, sex magazines and comic books help encourage molestation. Men known as "chikan," or gropers, take liberties while wedged against women in crowded trains.

Because such incidents go unreported, there are no figures on their frequency. But the experience is common enough to sustain a weekly column in woman's magazine in which readers describe their brushes with perversion. Pedestrian underpasses in Tokyo post signs warning women to "watch out for gropers."

"Many porn magazines give the impression that women are just dying to be molested by these men," said Ms. Sakamoto.

She also said pornography encourages other forms of sexual violence against women, including rape.

"Rape is frequently presented in the Japanese media as a nor-

mal variation of sex. Women are made out to appear as though they're just waiting to be raped," she said.

Police agree that accessible and widespread pornographic material may have a harmful influence on Japan's "moral environment," according to a 1985 report.

The report said there were nearly 8,000 vending machines dispensing sex magazines and comics in neighbourhoods nationwide, and that "sexual crimes committed by juveniles influenced by harmful magazines are notable lately."

The report cited the case of a 14-year-old fan of sex magazines who, it said, subsequently became "very interested in women" and went on in a three month span to commit "12 sexual crimes such as rape and inflicting injury and indecent assault."

Still, Japan had about 16 times fewer rapes than the United States last year, with 1,680 cases of rape reported, according to police statistics. In the United States, with about twice Japan's population, 77,763 rapes were reported in 1982.

Sakamoto and others say statistics don't accurately reflect the degree of sexual violence against women, particularly domestic rape.

Experts do not agree on the impact pervasive pornography has on sexual violence in Japan.



Syrian singer Sabah Fakhry (right) recording "This Week's Recital" with Abdullah Mourawwi of the BBC Arabic Service.

Sabah Fakhry sings on BBC

THE renowned Syrian singer Sabah Fakhry presents his favourite songs on the BBC Arabic Service programme "This Week's Recital" on Sunday, March 1. Mr. Fakhry recorded the programme during a British tour in which he appeared at London's Royal Festival Hall and in five other towns and cities in Britain. The

interview was conducted by Abdullah Mourawwi, who managed to persuade Mr. Fakhry to sing unaccompanied in the studio. During his visit to the BBC Mr. Fakhry said "it is always a pleasure to work with the BBC Arabic Service since it is one of the radio stations which made me famous throughout the Arab World."

"This Week's Recital" featuring Sabah Fakhry can be heard in the BBC Arabic Service at 1727 (GMT) on Sunday, March 1. Sabah Fakhry is also featured in "Oasis" talking to Nidal Kaban on Saturday, April 11, at 1630 (GMT), repeated on Tuesday, April 14, at 1530 (GMT) — BBC press release.

Captive falcon breeding flourishes in Gulf

By Mariam Alkhalifa
Reuter

BAHRAIN — Loud staccato yelps echo down the aviary hall as a young male falcon, head bobbing, takes wing around his small chamber in an attempt to impress his mate.

However the object of the excited bird's attention is not a female saker falcon, but a tall man in a traditional Arab robe.

He is Naseem Mohanna, deputy curator of Bahrain's Sulman Falcon Centre, who mimics the courtship behaviour of a female falcon in an effort to get the male to copulate with his specially-designed hat.

In this way he captures the bird's sperm and uses it to artificially inseminate a receptive female, to which he first acts out the role of a sexually-smitten male falcon.

Mohanna's efforts are directed at six of the centre's falcons, both male and female, which have been "imprinted" to respond behaviourally to people rather than other birds.

Ranging from the small peregrine favoured by Western falconers to the bedouin's traditional hunting partner, the saker falcon, and the regal gyrfalcon from the Arctic, the imprinted birds are used for interbreeding so that an entirely new type of bird can be produced.

Pioneered in Ireland during 1941, this method of producing hybrid birds is familiar to, though not widely practised by, Western falconers.

In the Middle East, where the age-old tradition of falconry has flourished unchanged for thousands of years, it is still very much a novelty.

"The Arabs like large falcons

but the biggest kind, the gyrfalcon, die like flies here because of the hot, humid climate," said Charles Schwartz, American curator of the centre.

"We are trying to cross the gyr with a peregrine or saker to get a larger, harder bird," he told Reuters.

Built in 1978 by Bahrain's crown prince, Sheikh Hamed Bin Isa Al-Khalifa, the centre was the first of its kind in the Middle East.

Two years later, it raised the region's first captive-bred falcons, offspring of a peregrine pair donated by Australia's Melbourne zoo.

Since then, other centres have sprung up, creations of oil-rich sheikhs who continue to practise falconry with the same passion as their bedouin ancestors.

Schwartz estimates that the three main projects — the Dubai

Wildlife Research Centre, Saudi Arabia's Al-Faisal Falcon Centre, and the Bahrain centre — can collectively produce 225 large falcons a year.

The Dubai centre is also spearheading a research programme for breeding the long-legged houbara bustard, the Arab falconer's traditional but gradually disappearing prey.

In addition, United Arab Emirates leaders have built two falcon hospitals complete with up-to-date technology and full-time staff to cater to the Arabian peninsula's estimated 3,000 captive birds.

Trapped in Iraq, Iran, Syria, Pakistan and Afghanistan, the birds are far from cheap — an average saker falcon costs the equivalent of \$5,000-\$8,000 while a price-tag of \$100,000 is not unknown for a particularly attractive bird.

"The Arabs favour light-coloured birds with white heads, called Ashgar (blonde)," said Mohanna. "They are considered more intelligent and brave. The next favourite type, ahmeer (red), is also good but may be faithless and have no soul."

Arab falconry developed around the female saker falcon because of its large size and gentle temperament.

Originally they were caught as they migrated down the Gulf in the autumn, trained for three weeks, hunted, and then released in spring before the onslaught of searing summer heat.

Only the arrival of air-conditioning in the region two decades ago has made year-round maintenance, and captive breeding, possible.

So far the Sulman Centre has raised 58 falcons, including sakers, peregrines, and hybrid saker-peregrines, for hunting or use in breeding programmes in Europe, the United States, and the Gulf.

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Liverpool pulls even with Everton at top in England

LONDON (R) — John Aldridge scored his first goal in the red of Liverpool and his 22nd of the season to put the English champion joint top of the First Division with traditional foe Everton.

Aldridge, playing his first full league game since his £800,000 (\$1.2 million) transfer from Oxford, scored a typically opportunistic goal against Southampton after 61 minutes to take Liverpool level with Everton on 55 points.

Everton remained top on goal difference after drawing 0-0 at Manchester United Saturday, though both Liverpool clubs could be overtaken by Arsenal who is one point behind but with a game in hand.

Treble-chasing Arsenal enjoyed a rest day before Sunday's eagerly-awaited League Cup semifinal second-leg tie against Tottenham, whom it trails 1-0.

Having inspired Liverpool to a 3-0 victory over Southampton in midweek — a victory which took Liverpool to Wembley for a League Cup final meeting with Arsenal or Tottenham — player manager Kenny Dalglish took the unusual step of dropping himself for the league game against the same club at Anfield.

But Dalglish's faith in Aldridge was fully justified as the former Oxford striker turned in an impressive performance and continually unnerved the Southampton defence with his aerial prowess.

Aldridge had two glorious headers saved by England goalkeeper Peter Shilton before he finally scored the goal he had dreamed of since his days as a schoolboy fan on the Anfield terraces.

Aldridge's great moment came when Danish international Jan Molby curled an enticing cross into the packed Southampton penalty area and the Irish striker rose majestically to direct a perfectly-placed header firmly past Shilton.

Luton continued its unexpected progress up the First Division table with a fully merited 2-1 home win over West Ham which lifted it above Tottenham into fourth place with 50 points.

England hopeful Tony Cottee put West Ham into an early lead with a fine eighth minute goal after a splendid pass from attacking partner Frank McAvennie but Luton always looked the better outfit.

The home side ignored that setback and midfielder Peter Nicholas scored his first goal for Luton since joining the club from Arsenal three years ago with a stunning 25-metre drive on the stroke of half-time.

Luton continued to hold the whip hand and it scored what proved to be the winner in the 70th minute when Irish international midfielder Ashley Grimes

pierced the redoubtable West Ham defence.

Glasgow Rangers enjoyed an unexpected bonus in the Scottish Premier League when it found itself at the top despite being held to a surprise 1-1 draw at home by Hibernian.

But Rangers' result was good enough to take it above bitter rival Glasgow Celtic, who was thumped 4-1 at Dundee after leading 1-0 at half-time from a 21st minute goal by international striker Brian McClair.

Dundee emerged from the interval as a transformed team and Celtic was buried without trace as Vince Mennie (47 and 62 minutes), Rab Shannon (60) and Ross Jack (79), gave Dundee a resounding home win.

Rangers was unfortunate to meet Hibernian's former Scotland goalkeeper Alan Rough in inspired form at Ibrox where the Edinburgh club took a shock lead through Eddie May on the stroke of half-time.

Rough denied Rangers a deserved equaliser with a string of superb saves but he was finally beaten in the 73rd minute when defender Davie McPherson headed home a Davie Cooper corner.

Third placed Dundee United, who meets Barcelona in the UEFA Cup next week, moved within two points of Rangers with a game in hand, after an impressive 1-0 win at Aberdeen where Scotland world cup midfielder Eamonn Bannon scored the vital winner in the first half.

E. German, American set world marks at indoor track, field championships

NEW YORK (AP) — East Germany's Heike Drechsler didn't like conditions facing long jumpers at the Indoor Track and Field Championships, but that didn't stop her from setting a new world record.

Although she said she was restricted because of a short pit, Drechsler became the first woman long jumper to exceed 7.3152 metres indoors. She sailed 7.3215 metres to break the indoor record of 7.2898 metres she set in Berlin Jan. 15, 1986.

Her achievement highlighted the event that included athletes from 30 countries and drew a crowd of more than 15,000 to Madison Square Garden.

On the main attractions Friday coming into the event fell short, as pole vault world indoor and outdoor record holder Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union and former world indoor record holder Billy Olson of the United States both failed to clear a

height.

Bubka came in — and went out — at 5.7214 metres, missing all three attempts at that height. Olson came in — and went out — at 5.5182 metres, missing three times.

In the men's mile, Ireland's Eamonn Coghlan entered as the favourite and didn't disappoint the crowd, becoming the first man to win 50 indoor mile races. Coghlan came from last place to post a winning time of 3 minutes, 59.25 seconds. He surged past countryman Ray Flynn with about a half lap remaining, bringing the spectators to their feet as he pulled away for the win.

American Mike Conley set a world indoor record during the meet, leaping 17.761 metres in the triple jump. His jump smashed the world indoor record of 17.6721 metres, set earlier this year by the Soviet Union's Oleg Protzenko.

In the women's 55-metre high hurdles, East Germany's Cornelia Oschkenat missed the world indoor best by one-hundredth of a second but won in 7.36.

Bulgaria's Yordanka Donkova, the world outdoor record holder in the 100-metre hurdles, finished second to Oschkenat in 7.49, and Jackie Joyner-Kersey of the United States finished third in 7.64.

Other final events held at Princeton University spotlighted East Germans. East German Ulf Timmermann, former world indoor and outdoor record holder, took the men's shot put at 21.6345 metres, easily beating the Soviet Union's Sergey Smirnov, the runner-up at 20.7201 metres.

Ilena Briesenick of East Germany took advantage of the absence of outdoor world record holder Natalya Lisovskaya of the Soviet Union to capture the women's shot put at 20.2311 metres. No explanation was given for Lisovskaya's withdrawal.

Lendl, Connors struggle to advance in Int'l Players Championships

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R) — Ivan Lendl and Jimmy Connors, two of the top seeds in the \$1.8 million International Players Championships, were given tough challenges in second round action before they advanced.

Lendl, the top seed from Czechoslovakia, was extended to five sets by unseeded American Paul Annacone, before winning 5-7, 7-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Connors, seeded sixth, took four sets to beat unseeded Peter Lundgren of Sweden 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

Lendl, the top ranked player in the world, came back from being down two sets to one to beat the 41st-ranked Annacone Friday.

Annacone's big first serve, one of his chief weapons, began to falter in the fourth set, when he was able to get in only 25 per cent of his first offerings.

Lendl, who played steadily throughout the three-hour and 46 minute match, broke Annacone in the sixth and eighth games to win the fourth set 6-2 and to take command in the fifth with an early break for 2-0.

Lendl needed three match points against Annacone's serve in the eighth game of the fifth set

to clinch victory. Annacone saved the first with a sharply angled volley and the second with an ace. Lendl won the third, as Annacone volleyed a forehand into the net.

"I won because I found my timing in the last two sets and Annacone got tired," Lendl said afterward. "To be honest, the best-of-five-set format saved my life today."

Connors faced a player who resembled Swedish all-time great Bjorn Borg both in looks and style of play. The 12-year-old Lundgren, who at 22 is Connors' junior, rallied from the baseline with deep penetrating groundstrokes to win the first set easily 6-2.

The second set contained five breaks of serve, three against Lundgren, who dropped serve in the tenth game to give Connors the set 6-4 when the Swede netted a backhand.

In the third set, Lundgren began to miss on his forehand and Connors found his rhythm, winning the set easily 6-2. Lundgren took an early lead in the fourth set, breaking Connors in the first game, but could not hold on to the advantage as Connors broke

back twice, winning the match on his second match point as Lundgren hit a forehand long.

In earlier action, top seeded Martina Navratilova and third seeded Steffi Graf of West Germany had easy second-round wins.

Navratilova dismissed unseeded American Halle Gioffi 6-1, 6-0, and Graf beat unseeded Sara Gomer of Britain by the same score.

Several seeds were eliminated in both men's and women's play. Mikael Pernfors of Sweden, seeded 11, was beaten in five grueling sets by unseeded fellow countryman Johan Carlsson 6-3, 6-1, 4-6, 1-6, 6-4.

American Tim Wilkison, seeded 25, and Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union, seeded 32, both lost.

On the women's side, eighth-seeded Kathy Rinaldi of the United States was beaten by unseeded Nathalie Tauziat of France 5-7, 6-4, 6-3.

Fourteenth-seeded Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden and American Robin White, seeded 16th, were also beaten by unseeded opponents.

China poised for sweep of table tennis despite upsets

NEW DELHI (R) — China, who is seeking a seven-title sweep, was jolted when its men's second seed and top two women players crashed out of the World Table Tennis Championships Saturday.

Chen Longcan was ousted by Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner in the men's singles quarter-finals, while world number one and top seed Geng Lijuan and second seed Jiao Zhimin tumbled out of the women's fourth round.

Yet the formidable Chinese were still in line for a clean sweep, having taken the two team championships and clinched the mixed doubles crown by winning Saturday's final. Their title prospects are enhanced by having three players in each of Sunday's men's and women's singles and doubles semifinals.

"They look like making the clean sweep, but we will try our best," Swedish coach Anders Thunderson told Reuters after

Waldner had humiliated Chen 21-17, 21-15, 21-11.

Fifth-seeded Waldner was supported by hundreds of Indian supporters cheering the Swede for playing the match while still recovering from the effects of a viral fever which kept him out of the men's team final on Tuesday.

Waldner faces third seed Teng Yi of China in the semifinals, while the other tie will be an all-Chinese affair between top seed Jiang Jialiang and fourth seed Chen Xinhua.

China suffered its biggest upset in the women's singles when North Korea's Hui Li Bun beat Geng 13-21, 21-10, 18-21, 21-13, 21-17 and Jiao Zhimin was beaten 14-21, 17-21, 21-14, 21-19, 21-19 by Czechoslovakia's Marie Hrachova.

Geng displayed little of the form which made her runner-up in Gothenburg.

Karpov wins 2nd game in challenger chess tourney

LINARES, Spain (AP) — Anatoly Karpov defeated Andrei Sokolov in the second game of the candidates final for the world chess championship after turning a microscopic edge in an endgame into a crushing advantage.

"It was a brilliant victory," commented Danish international master Bjarke Kristensen later. "We had all thought that the adjourned position from Thursday was a dead draw. It took very precise play from Karpov," he added.

After Karpov had played his 61st move Friday to completely surround an exposed pawn, Sokolov stopped the clock to signify resignation and they shook hands.

Experts had predicted a draw when the game was adjourned Thursday night and were unable to directly pinpoint Sokolov's likely error.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Paris-Peking air race begins

PARIS (AP) — A fleet of 17 singles and twin-engine light planes left the suburban airport of Toussus-Le-Noble Saturday on the first stage of the Paris-Peking-Paris air race. The first stage of the event is to Abu Dhabi, competitors being timed from the moment they were given take-off clearance, and having to include refuelling stops en route. There are handicaps for the different classes of aircraft entered. One of two Italian crews entered was a late starter. Max Leyer and Ali Mondo were delayed by customs formalities in Italy and left here several hours after the other competitors.

Schmidhauser wins World Cup ski title

ZWIESEL, West Germany (AP) — Corinne Schmidhauser of Switzerland won the last women's slalom of the season Saturday and clinched the World Cup title in the event. Schmidhauser posted the fastest times in both runs on the fog-shrouded course to score her third World Cup victory of the season. The 22-year-old Swiss racer clinched the slalom title when her closest rival, Tamara McKinney of the United States, dropped out after making a mistake in the second run. Erika Hess of Switzerland, the world slalom champion, placed second. Roswitha Steiner of Austria was third.

Piquet clocks fastest time in tests

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazilian Ayrton Senna set the pace in the last day of Formula One tyre tests at the Jacarepagua race track but could not beat the time set by compatriot Nelson Piquet of the Williams team. Driving a Lotus, Senna clocked a personal best time of one minute 30.19 seconds Friday. Piquet's 1:28.81 was the best of the week and his teammate Briton Nigel Mansell set the second fastest time of 1:29.29 on Tuesday. Alain Prost, the world champion Frenchman, clocked 1:32.41 in his McLaren, far from his week's best of 1:30.83 set on Tuesday.

Poland beats W. Germany in handball

BOLZANO, Italy (R) — Poland took third place in the finals of the men's World Handball Championships by beating West Germany by 24 goals to 20. The final for first place between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union is Saturday night. Poland, who was 13-8 at half time, found few problems in disposing of the German team Friday night, while Romania met strong opposition from Switzerland in the fifth place playoff with the score a closely contested 12-12 at half-time.

Luton fined £2,000 for missing match

LONDON (R) — English First Division side Luton was fined £2,000 (\$3,100) by the Football Association for failing to turn up for an FA Cup third round replay at Liverpool last month. Bad weather prevented Luton from travelling north on the day of the match, which was postponed shortly before kickoff. Liverpool has already received an undisclosed sum in compensation from Luton.

Czechs dominate University Games

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Czechoslovak skiers triumphed over their favoured Soviet rivals on Friday to take four out of the first five places in the 10-kilometre cross-country event at the World Winter University Games in Slovakia's high Tatras Mountains. In the women's slalom, the last women's event of the games, Czechoslovakia's Ivana Valsova captured the gold medal with a time of one minute 39.87 seconds, ahead of Yugoslavia's Natasa Bokal and Katja Lesjak, who finished in 1:40.64 and 1:40.98 respectively. Alzbeta Havranckova spearheaded the home team's triumph in the 10 kilometre cross country, finishing in 25 minutes 59.7 seconds. Teammate Anna Janouskova was second in 26:32.3, while Lyubov Yegorova of the Soviet Union finished third in 26:36.2.

Queen's daughter survives hurdle race

KEMPTON PARK, England (AP) — Princess Anne, an Olympic equestrian rider, completed her first horse race over hurdles Saturday but trailed in last of four riders at this south English racecourse. Riding her own horse, Cnoc Na Cuille (CQ), the 35-year-old daughter of Queen Elizabeth II, held the lead in the early stages of the 2½ mile (4 kilometre) Portlaine Handicap Chase. But despite safely negotiating the 17 fences, she came home some 20 lengths adrift of the winner, favourite Welsh Oak. Princess Anne, a noted competitor in three-day eventing, has ridden 15 races on the flat, winning one.

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Pical's record now stands at 14 wins, including 10 knockouts, against three defeats since he turned professional in 1981.

The defeat may also deprive Pical of his IBF title, which he won in 1985. IBF President Robert Lee had threatened to strip Pical of the title if he were defeated in the WBA fight.

Both Galaxy and Pical earned \$150,000 for the fight.



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Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675573

OPERA

OFF BEAT

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

FLASH DANCE

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 622198

RAGHADAN

SECRET NINJA ROARING TIGER

Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45

OECD values Switzerland for sound economic policy

PARIS (AP) — Switzerland's economic performance has been excellent in recent years and is likely to stay on track through the end of 1987, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said last week.

Low unemployment and inflation, a sizeable current account surplus and one of the highest rates of economic growth in the industrialised world have been hallmarks of the Swiss economy in the early 1980s, OECD noted in its annual survey of the Swiss economy.

The organisation said economic activity should remain steady in 1987, inflation and unemployment will remain under control and the current account will show once again a sizeable surplus.

After peaking at four per cent in 1985, Switzerland's gross domestic product (GDP) growth dipped to two per cent in 1986 and the rate of expansion in 1987 may be a quarter-point or so below last year's level.

Real private consumption is likely to be "unusually buoyant" in 1987 thanks to a relatively high level of real disposable income. Economic activity is expected to remain satisfactory this year, with GDP expanding by 1.4 per cent, or very slightly below last year's two per cent.

Under the influence of domestic cost pressures, Switzerland's inflation rate may edge higher, to 1.4 per cent from 1.1 per cent in 1986, while the unemployment

rate should remain at around one per cent of the work force.

As in 1986, the current account is likely to show a surplus of close to \$8 billion this year, or between five and six per cent of GDP.

The OECD said it sees little room for further decline in interest rates in Switzerland if the money supply growth target of two per cent at annual rate over the period forecast is adhered to and if economic activity expands as forecast.

The survey added that, as in previous years, government budget equilibrium and the ratio of public expenditure to GDP are likely to persist in 1987 and 1988.

The OECD economists suggested, however, that a comparatively tight monetary policy stance "may contribute to upward pressure on the Swiss franc exchange rate."

While this would promote domestic price stability, it could impair the price competitiveness of the exposed sector of the economy, they said. But they conceded that given the size of the surplus on the invisible balance of Switzerland's balance of payments, this is not a major concern.

In a special chapter on Switzerland's financial markets, the OECD said that financial regulation and taxation "have resulted in the emergence of problems within the financial system which may impinge on the country's ability to attract new financial activities to within its borders."

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Feb. 21, '87 and ending Wednesday, Feb. 25, '87. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	100	127	1.270	1.270	1.000
Petra Bank	11760	26344	2.210	2.100	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	5607	12220	2.200	2.220	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	9469	16084	1.740	1.680	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	13542	17992	1.400	1.310	1.000
Housing Bank	1050	1620	1.580	1.540	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	380	722	1.900	1.900	1.000
Calro Amman Bank	1270	37795	32.000	30.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	28402	638621	23.400	23.400	5.000
Arab Bank	2540	324539	126.000	127.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	16275	40730	2.680	2.510	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	46250	32786	0.690	0.740	1.000
Islamic Investment House					
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	13928	13010	1.400	1.450	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	78151	20000	0.790	0.740	1.000
National Financial Investments	10100	13985	1.400	1.370	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	57508	34799	0.620	0.600	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	10071	9430	0.950	0.930	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)					
Real Estate Financing Corporation					
Al Mafrek Exchange	1000	13250	14.000	12.500	10.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	3634	12413	3.500	3.400	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	4243	3734	0.850	0.880	1.000
Jordan Insurance	29450	332415	11.000	11.500	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	10975	9306	0.870	0.850	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	67229	73907	1.100	1.010	1.000
Holy Land Insurance					
Arabian Sea Insurance					
Philadelphian Insurance					
Arab Union International Insurance	1000	0.320	0.930	0.920	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	8055	10327	1.350	1.300	1.000
Petra Jordan Insurance					
Jordan Gulf Insurance	5701	4414	0.800	0.770	1.000
Universal Insurance	334	227	0.680	0.680	1.000
General Insurance	92	143	1.750	1.550	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance					
Middle East Insurance					
Al-Jedih Insurance					
National Ahliya Insurance	5500	7700	1.400	1.400	1.000
Services and industries					
Darco for Housing and Investment	19248	11023	0.610	0.560	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqaro)	924	416	0.500	0.450	1.000
Management and Consultancy					
General Investment					
Jordan Leasing Corporation	250	176	0.700	0.700	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	16359	2906	0.680	0.670	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	6050	2667	0.960	0.940	1.000
Jordan Electric Power	6878	10110	1.470	1.470	1.000
Edib District Electricity					
Arab International Hotels	49350	21233	0.440	0.440	1.000
Hotels and Tourism					
Garage Owners Federation Office					
Jordan National Shipping Lines	2634	2463	0.940	0.920	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	35100	13655	0.550	0.400	1.000
Jordan Day	11081	13037	1.210	1.170	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	17351	36734	2.160	2.100	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	236145	208136	0.940	0.880	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	27201	65275	2.400	2.400	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intag)	9125	13296	1.450	1.460	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	2693	12835	5.000	4.700	1.000
Aladdin Industries	58892	60405	1.030	1.010	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	253208	370558	1.550	1.480	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills					
Jordan Ceramics	3000	3020	1.040	1.000	1.000
Chemical Industries	7210	7937	1.190	1.040	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	8345	4264	0.530	0.490	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	6467	8966	1.390	1.390	1.000
National Steel Industries	138427	294781	2.200	2.160	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	2880	2580	0.900	0.850	1.000
General Mining	550	1650	1.650	1.650	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	3772	25887	6.900	6.860	5.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	65730	17664	0.390	0.270	1.000
National Industries	1850	1392	0.770	0.740	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	7700	2650	0.380	0.320	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)					
Livestock and Poultry					
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	7650	9379	1.240	1.210	1.000
Rafid Industrial for Plastic Bags					
Jordan Paper and Cardboard					
Jordan Rockwool Industries	6000	2480	0.420	0.400	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research					
Jordan Himeh Mineral					
Orient Dry Batteries Factory					
Woolen Industries					
Jordan Tanning	500	825	1.620	1.650	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging					
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	1180	12390	10.600	10.500	5.000
Jordan Brewery					
Mae Industries					
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	27300	25931	0.980	0.920	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	15482	9938	0.610	0.630	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving					
Jordan Industrial Investment Corporation					
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	558900	1161352	2.520	2.340	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	224054	235729	1.180	1.080	1.000
Grand total	2,283,347	4,382,295			

Saudi importer secures debt rescheduling of \$187 million

BAHRAIN (R) — A major Saudi Arabian importer of construction and agricultural machinery has arranged with creditor banks to reschedule about 700 million riyals (\$187 million) of debt, banking sources said Saturday.

The debt accord for the Jeddah-based Arabian Auto Agency (AAA) is one of the largest renegotiations by Saudi Arabia's recession-hit private sector.

Under the agreement, the company will have seven to nine years to pay off its debt to about 50 Saudi Arabian and international banks.

Mr. David Penketh, senior manager credit at Saudi British Bank in Riyadh and chairman of a bank steering group handling AAA's debt, confirmed that an agreement had been signed.

He declined to comment on its terms, but told Reuters: "The agreement was characterised by a lot of goodwill on both sides."

The company borrowed heavily

ate Saudi Research and Development Corp. known as Redec, have been high on the list of bank worries in the Gulf.

The sources said Redec seemed to be close to announcing agreement on a draft package to reschedule 1.3 billion riyals (\$347 million) of debt.

Saudi Arabia's state-owned airline Saudia won bank consent last year to delay repayment on credits from Saudi banks totalling 1.6 billion riyals (\$426 million).

Banking sources said AAA's rescheduling covered several loans taken out during the early 1980s. A portion would be repaid at a fixed interest rate of seven per cent and the remainder at 1/4 percentage point over Saudi interbank offered rates, a reference level for market interest rates in the kingdom.

The sources said AAA made one payment to banks of 11 million riyals (\$2.9 million) on Feb. 15.

Crude oil prices decline

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Crude oil prices dropped again Friday, further reversing their two-month climb, amid market concern over whether Saudi Arabia could rein in output to compensate for OPEC over-production.

The price of West Texas Intermediate on the New York Mercantile Exchange, one of the industry's standard pricing mechanisms, slumped 18 cents to close at \$17.80 a barrel, off \$1.20 for the week despite a brief uptick Thursday.

While the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed in December to curb output in order to raise prices, traders say they now believe OPEC is exceeding its new quota by as much as one million barrels per day (b/d).

The central question, they say, is the output level of Saudi Arabia, whose officially-mandated quota calls for it to produce more than a quarter of OPEC's 15.8 million b/d revised output quota.

Such a large quota gives the Saudis room to curb their own production and make up for the excessive output of others. Industry analysts say pressure is growing on the Saudis to resume their former role as OPEC's "swing producer," which it abandoned in 1985.

"Speculation is growing that the Saudis will return to this role and curb their output to balance OPEC supply," said one political analyst in Washington who spoke on condition that he not be named.

"The pressure is on them because there really is no one else who can play this role at this time, he added.

Mr. Bijar Mousavvian-Rahmani, a former Iranian diplomat now at Harvard University's Energy and Environment Policy Centre, said the same pressures which forced Saudi Arabia to play the swing role in the past were driving them to do so again.

"But it is also certain they will

not be likely to return to the production levels of July 1985 when they were at about two million b/d," he said.

The analysts estimated Saudi production this month at between three million and 3.8 million b/d, compared with its official 4.133 million b/d quota.

In remarks published in Riyadh Saturday, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia stressed the importance of maintaining the stability of oil prices.

In an interview with the Lebanese weekly magazine Al Hawadeth, carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, he said: "Oil is a strategic commodity of importance to the entire world. Its price must remain stable as much as possible."

Meanwhile, a report released in Washington last week warns that the United States and other oil consuming countries face the "serious threat" of a repeat of the 1970s energy crisis.

The report, by the National Petroleum Council (NPC), a federal advisory committee to the U.S. energy secretary, says "the gravity of the situation is lost in the public's euphoria over lower energy prices and complacency with the current world oil surplus."

It points out that U.S. oil imports could increase from 27 per cent of all supplies in 1985 to more than 50 per cent by the mid-1990s.

The study notes that the dramatic drop in oil prices last year has already resulted in increased consumption and significantly reduced domestic production in the U.S.

"A continuation of these trends inevitably will result in a greater reliance on imported oil to supply the nation's needs," the council states.

It claims additional oil import dependence will increase the country's vulnerability to supply disruption, rapidly accelerate its balance of trade problems, undermine national security.

Caracas, banks reach new debt agreement

NEW YORK (R) — Venezuela and its leading creditor banks agreed Friday night to revise a \$21 billion rescheduling package, cutting both the interest rate and the amount of principal due in the next three years, bankers said.

"We have a deal. Everybody's on board," said one banker.

Venezuela, an oil-producer hard hit by the slump in prices, struck the deal with the advisory committee, which is cochaired by Chase Manhattan Bank, Bank of America and Britain's Lloyds Bank, on the main points of a revision to a debt-rescheduling agreement signed a year ago.

Under the accord, the interest rate on Venezuela's commercial debt will be reduced to 7 1/2 per cent over the fluctuating London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR), or a bank's domestic cost of funds, from the current 1 1/2 per cent. Among the Latin American debtors, only Mexico's margin of 13/16 over LIBOR is lower than Venezuela's.

The other key element of the pact is a reduction in the amount of principal that Venezuela will repay in 1987, 1988 and 1989, reducing it to \$1.35 billion from \$3.36 billion.

The agreement came on the heels of a new deal between Chile and its creditor banks on Thursday.

The main element of the Chilean accord is a "retiming" of interest payments on some \$12.4 billion that will save Chile about \$440 million next year.

The accord will enable Chile to service its \$21 billion debt without the need for fresh loans.

Bankers acknowledged a desire to chalk up some quick successes on the world debt problem following Brazil's announcement last month that it would suspend interest payments on the \$68 billion it owes commercial banks.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are on the verge of some new beginnings, so wind this up now. Be sure you are aware of all the practical factors connected with your advanced ambitions.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Give your full attention to problematical matters. Please your mate and gain more harmony together.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You need more information before you can gain that goal you have been working on. Go after it now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Handle that civic affair and then you can go after personal wishes. Gad about later, see friends.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Show that you follow your beliefs. Use the information that a newcomer has given you.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Keep any promises you have made that are important, then you can enjoy more exciting activities.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Complete that outside job you've been expending your energies on. Come to an agreement with your mate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get tasks handled and then meet with associates to make worthwhile plans. Try a different method of operation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Set up an appointment with a character. Get a talent perfected before you go out for the evening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have home duties to perform and then you can step out to places of amusement with congenials.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get at the correspondence you have been neglecting. Make your home more charming and functional.

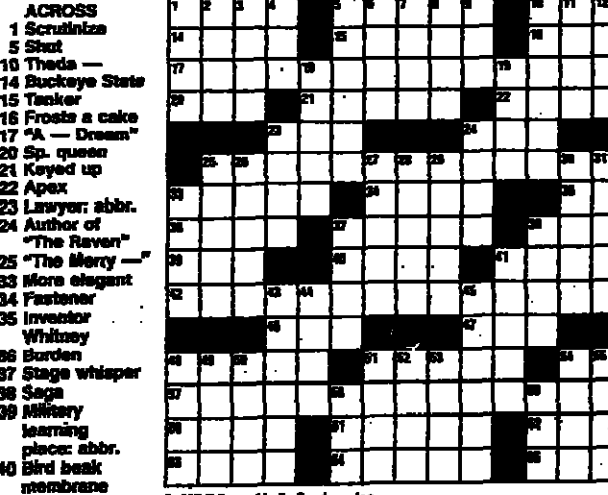
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Make the financial plans that are important. Visit new acquaintances tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can easily gain personal aims during the daytime. Tonight you get a fine idea for gaining more prosperity.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will be full of fine ideas and lofty principles in early life and follow them throughout the lifetime. Upon reaching adulthood you son, or daughter, will continue to do this and will strive to be at the top of any enterprise. Teach this one control.

THE Daily Crossword

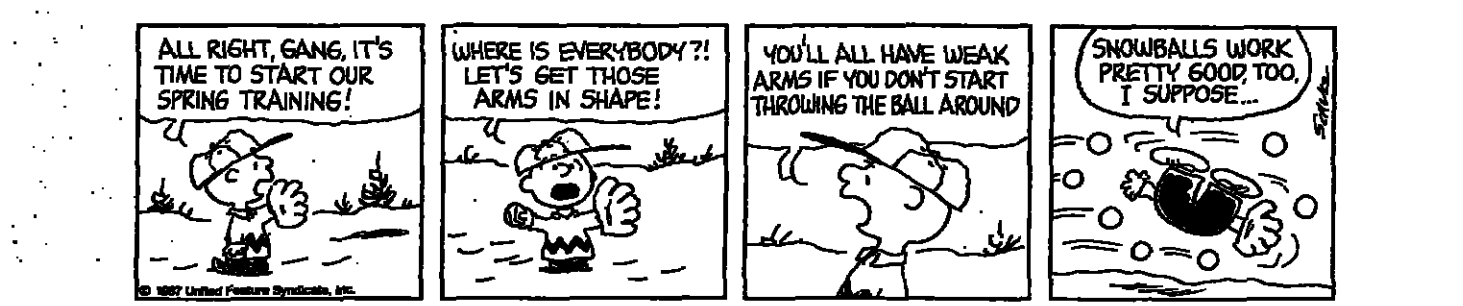
by Dorothy B. Martin



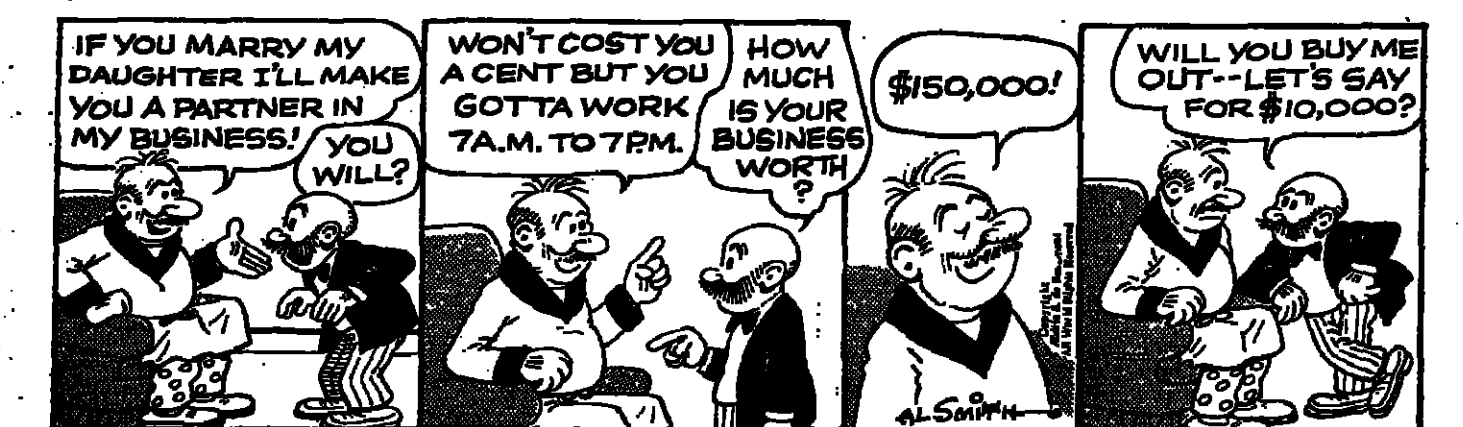
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- ACROSS**
- Scrutinize
 - Shut
 - Theater
 - Backstage State
 - Tenker
 - Frosts a cake
 - "A" Dream
 - Sp. quater
 - Keyed up
 - Apex
 - Layover: abbr.
 - Author of "The Raven"
 - "The Merry"
 - More elegant
 - Partner
 - Investor
 - Whitney
 - Burden
 - Stage whisper
 - Saga
 - Military learning place: abbr.
 - Sit back: interjection
 - Century plant
 - Shakespeare
- DOWN**
- Any
 - Facial feature
 - Open horizon
 - Digit: abbr.
 - Calisthenic
 - hordes
 - Depositor
 - Ballistic chess
 - Dried up
 - Sea eagle
 - Walter Pidgeon
 - Bin
 - Yeom
 - Sober: flur
 - 12 Healer: abbr.
 - 18 Speak
 - 19 Secret image
 - 22 Street: abbr.
 - 24 Hump
 - 25 Hoisting machine
 - 26 Operational
 - 27 Start
 - 28 Laissez-
 - 29 More expensive
 - 30 Flower part
 - 31 Martial law
 - 32 Oriental food staple
 - 33 — the bill
 - 34 Skin affliction
 - 35 Mild excitation
 - 36 Thaw
 - 37 Standing
 - 38 School egg
 - 39 Pencil foot
 - 40 Gown: flur
 - 41 Laid
 - 42 Or: theater
 - 43 Thaw
 - 44 Pailions
 - 45 School egg
 - 46 Formerly
 - 47 Division word
 - 48 Breathless
 - 49 Mineral deposit
 - 50 Possession

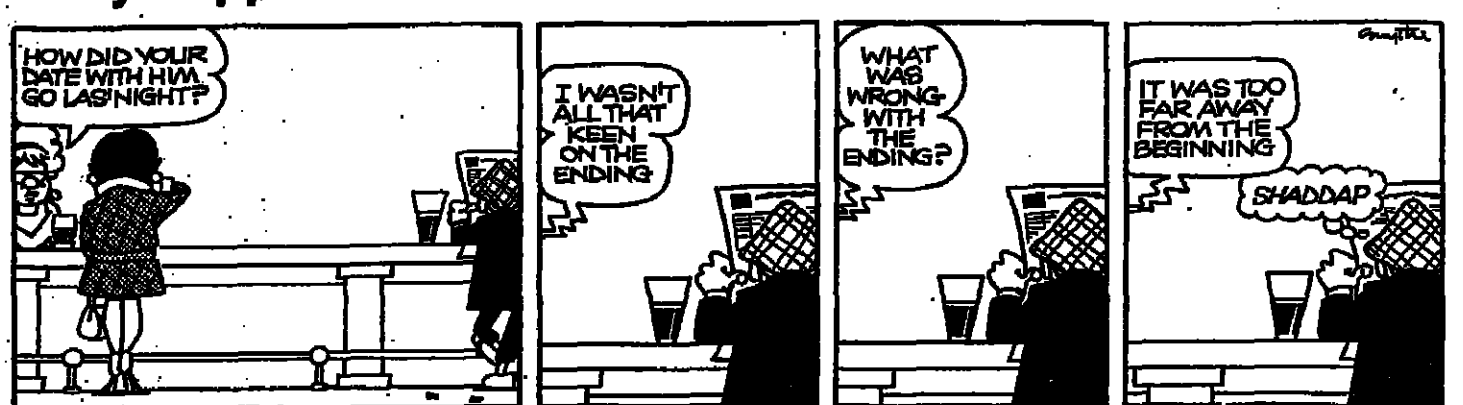
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I'm finally going to clean the dust out from behind the sofa. Where can I rent a snowplow?"

South Korea frees 1,218 prisoners, bans protests

SEOUL (R) — South Korea freed more than 1,000 prisoners, including dissidents, Saturday but banned an opposition demonstration calling for democracy and an end to torture.

A Justice Ministry spokesman said 17 students and other dissidents were among 1,218 prisoners released in an amnesty to commemorate Sunday's 68th anniversary of an uprising against Japanese colonial rule and President Chun Doo Hwan's inauguration six years ago.

The amnesty coincided with Interior Minister Chung Ho-Yong's statement banning a nationwide peace march on March 3 organised by the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) and hundreds of Roman Catholic and Protestant ministers and dissidents.

March 3, the anniversary of Mr. Chung's inauguration, also marks the end of a Buddhist mourning period for student activist Park Chong-Chol who died under police torture.

Mr. Chung, who replaced Kim Chang-Hoh as interior minister after the latter resigned as a result of Park's death, said a group of

radicals and pro-Communists were trying to foment unrest in order to topple the government through an uprising.

He accused the demonstration organisers of attempting to use the issues of torture and democracy to spark disturbances throughout the country's universities when students return from their winter vacation.

Mr. Chung said: "I will not tolerate any attempt to violate laws, or any activities inciting unrest... in the next year." Mr. Chung's seven-year mandate ends on Feb. 24, 1988.

He also warned that "all official forces" would be mobilised to stop illegal activities.

When the opposition called a similar rally on Feb. 7 over 10,000 demonstrators defied an official ban and confronted thousands of riot police in Seoul and three other cities to demand an end to "institutional brutality."

The government pledged to

establish a special agency to halt torture and protect human rights in the wake of demonstrations last month.

The peace march is scheduled to take place three days before U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is due to arrive in Seoul for talks with President Chun.

A group of 37 U.S. congressmen have written to Mr. Shultz urging him to tell Mr. Chun's government that he is unhappy about its human rights record.

The congressmen's letter said making Mr. Chung the new interior minister "does not inspire confidence that the (South) Korean government is taking a new and positive approach on human rights matters."

Mr. Chung was a former commander of the South Korean Special Forces dissidents accuse of helping crush a 1980 armed uprising in Kwangju, in which about 200 people died.

South Korea's Catholic leader, Cardinal Stephen Kim Sou-Hwan, Saturday instructed all 130 churches under his diocese to start nine days of prayers for democracy.

Bush: Tower report may help presidential campaign

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire (AP) — Vice President George Bush says the findings of the Tower Commission make clear he was not involved in any wrongdoing and therefore will help his presidential campaign.

The report "laid to rest a lot of wild speculation about me," Mr. Bush told reporters Friday night as he flew back to Washington from a campaign trip to Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

He also noted that no one in the audience for his luncheon speech to a Chamber of Commerce in Bedford, Massachusetts, asked about Iran.

"I don't think people out here care much about Iran," said the vice president.

He appeared to accept the commission's finding that arms were traded for hostages, an action he said was wrong.

At the Chamber of Commerce luncheon and at a Republican dinner in New Hampshire, Mr. Bush prefaced his prepared remarks with comments on the highly critical report issued Thursday on the secret arms sales to Iran and diversion of funds to the Contras.

Mr. Bush quoted the commission report as saying that "a pattern of successive bargained exchanges of arms and hostages was quickly established."

Then he said, "arms for hostages is wrong, and at this stage the implementation of the policy failed. It failed the American people and it failed the president."

While he was in New Hampshire, Mr. Bush was interviewed on television station WNEV of Boston and was asked what impact he thought the report would have on his presidential prospects.

"It makes them much better," he replied. "I think some people out there were wondering what was the vice president's involvement..."

"The report speaks to it. It makes clear I wasn't involved in some of the things that people consider were wrong."

Mr. Bush was one of the few administration officials who escaped criticism by the commission headed by former Republican Senator John Tower. The panel criticised President Ronald Reagan for not having tight enough control over the actions of his subordinates.

Reagan flustered by report, panel says

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Members of the Tower Commission were quoted Saturday as saying they were dismayed by President Reagan's lack of knowledge of the Iran arms scandal and described him as flustered when they gave him their report.

"I don't blame him, I would have been flustered too," former Texas Senator John Tower, the commission's chairman, said in an interview with the New York Times.

Commission members also said they uncovered new evidence of a private network raising money for the Nicaraguan contra rebels but lacked time or resources to investigate it fully.

In addition, the Tower panelists told the paper they benefited from a quirk in the White House computer system which yielded tens of thousands of backup copies of documents which previously were thought to have been purged.

The newspaper reported the commission members said that although they were appointed on Dec. 1, they did not get totally organised until mid-January and had had difficulty obtaining security clearances for staff.

The commission, also comprising former Secretary of State Edmund Muskie and retired Air Force General Brent Scowcroft, met Mr. Reagan twice in January and February.

"I frankly was extremely surprised that he knew so little of what we had learned up to that point," Mr. Muskie said.

In Moscow the government newspaper Izvestia charged Friday that the Tower Commission report is "without conclusions" on the exact role of top White House officials, including President Reagan.

The commission "admitted itself that it had only touched the tip of the iceberg" in investigating the affair, the Soviet government newspaper said in a report from Washington.

Izvestia said that on the whole, the Tower Commission's report issued Thursday "spread the blame in such a way that it would not touch the president" by saying Mr. Reagan had not been aware of the details of the operation.

"Exactly these 'conclusions' have created an especially stormy reaction among journalists," Izvestia said.

Nicaragua slams Reagan

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry said Friday the U.S. report on the Iran-contra affair "confirms the illegality and the fanaticism" of President Reagan's "aggression" against Nicaragua.

A banner headline in Managua's pro-government daily El Nuevo Diario on Friday said: "Reagan is at fault."

Amnesty adopts Texas 'prisoner of conscience'

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International said it has adopted as a "prisoner of conscience," a volunteer church worker in a Texas jail.

The organisation said Stacy Lynn Merkt, 31, was imprisoned because of her humanitarian work for Salvadoran refugees.

The London-based human rights group said it adopted Merkt, who began serving a 179-day (more than five months) sentence on Jan. 29 at the Fort Worth Federal Correctional Institution. It said Ms. Merkt is married and expecting her first child, but did not say whether the child was expected to be born in prison.

Ms. Merkt was convicted, so violating U.S. immigration laws by helping undocumented Salvadoran aliens obtain refugee status in the United States.

Amnesty International said it believes that she was convicted of violating laws which, as applied by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Service, "directly facilitate the violation of human rights to which the organisation is opposed."

The report said Ms. Merkt, a member of the so-called Sanctuary Movement, is the first person in the United States to be adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience in eight years.

Ms. Merkt, a worker at a church-sponsored refugee centre in the Rio Grande Valley, was convicted in 1986 in U.S. district court in Brownsville, Texas, on one count of conspiring to transport undocumented Salvadoran aliens, Amnesty International said.

It said she was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, of which 179 days are to be served, and put on three years' probation.

Costa Rica denies U.S. harassment

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Costa Rican President Oscar Arias has denied that any U.S. government official threatened to cut off U.S. aid if he did not continue to allow U.S. planes to use a Costa Rican airport to supply Nicaraguan rebels.

"I was never blackmailed, nor was I ever threatened," Mr. Arias told a news conference. He was responding to a report by the Tower Commission that such pressure was exerted.

The commission was appointed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan to investigate White House involvement in the secret sale of arms to Iran and the alleged diversion of profits to Nicaraguan rebels.

"There was never such a threat and events themselves, since President Arias took power on May 8, 1986, demonstrate the contrary to what the document says," Mr. Rivera Bianchini said.

"Events show that the Tower Commission report is not saying the truth when it affirms that President Arias received threats

from the North American government to keep the Potosí Grande air strip open," he added.

The report said fired National Security Council staff member Lt. Col. Oliver North said he had threatened Mr. Arias with a cutoff of \$80 million in aid if he publicised the existence of a secret Costa Rican airfield used to resupply the Nicaraguan rebels.

Col. North made the comment in a memo to then National Security Advisor John Poindexter.

In addition, the report said Col. North threatened to withdraw an invitation to Mr. Arias to make an official visit to Washington, but it made no mention of any threat if Mr. Arias denied the use of the airport.

The aid was never cut off, even though the Arias government denied further use of the airport and publicly disclosed its existence.

Col. North was fired on Nov. 25 following an investigation that linked him to the diversion of Iranian arms sales profits to the Contras. Adm. Poindexter resigned the same day.

Former British officers allege anti-IRA shoot-to-kill policy in mid-1970s

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Two former British army officers say British security forces in Northern Ireland operated a shoot-to-kill policy in the mid-1970s against Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp.'s (BBC) Radio Ulster on Friday, they also alleged that rivalry between two intelligence agencies operating in the province enabled guerrillas to kill 10 undercover agents in just over a week in the same period.

The allegations were made by Fred Holroyd, an ex-captain in military intelligence, and Colin Wallace, an ex-army information officer with the rank of major who said he had led a secret psychological operations unit.

They said they had written to Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher about their allegations.

They said a "dirty war" of kidnappings and assassinations was waged in the mid-1970s against suspected guerrillas of the mainly Roman Catholic IRA and that a dirty tricks campaign was employed against Protestant leaders to try to discredit them.

They said the dirty war was authorised from the highest level. Holroyd said in the radio interview that at one stage members of the army's elite counter-subversion Special Air Service (SAS) regiment used Protestant terrorists to kidnap and murder IRA suspects across the border in the Irish Republic.

Holroyd said the Protestants from Portadown 40 kilometres south west of Belfast and were members of the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Freedom Fighters. Both groups are outlawed.

Holroyd said a number of disparate intelligence groups were brought together for the purpose

COLUMNS 7&8

New lizard species found at war front

PARIS (AP) — An Iranian zoologist, serving as a medical orderly at the front in the Iran-Iraq war, discovered a new species of Gecko lizard, the world's largest, a French professor has said. The discoverer has not been heard of since, and may have been killed in the subsequent fighting, said Prof. Michel Thireau of the Paris Museum of Natural History. Thireau said in a telephone interview that he and an Iranian zoologist, Mohammad Balouch of Tehran University, described the new species in a scientific publication late last year. "We named it Eublepharis ensaf, after the discoverer," he said. Cpl. Ali Reza Ensaf spotted the Gecko, a tropical and sub-tropical lizard with suction pads on its feet, in the ruins of an Iranian position shelled by the Iraqis near Fakke in Khuzistan in July 1984, Thireau said. Ensaf captured the animal and sent it alive to Balouch, his former professor, with photos of the hole in which it lived, but because of the war, did not have time to write a full description of the environment. Balouch brought the animal to Paris where he and Thireau determined it to be a new species to add to the two species of Geckos previously known in Iran, Thireau said.

90-year-old escapes 18th jail term

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — A 90-year-old man who says he has been smoking marijuana for the past 73 years escaped an 18th jail term for the offense, the Herald newspaper reported Saturday. "You see, I do not smoke cigarettes and I don't drink. So I smoke mbanje," Nham Matzozo told Judge President Wilson Sandura, the newspaper reported. It said Sandura gave Matzozo a suspended nine-month prison sentence for possessing 500 grams of marijuana, known here as mbanje. Matzozo, who has been jailed 17 times since 1914 for smoking the drug, was referred to the high court by a magistrate who told him: "You started your criminal career long before I was born and you have continued unabated on an annual basis." Matzozo, who pleaded guilty, told the high court the marijuana was for his own use. He also said the drug eased the pain of his constant backache, the newspaper reported. Sandura said he would not jail Matzozo because of his advanced age, but warned him to stop using the drug, suggesting he go to hospital for treatment for his backache.

Man sells pot 'to help starving Jews'

WAILUKU, Hawaii (AP) — A man who was fined and sentenced to jail for raising marijuana claims he was selling the drug to raise money for famine-stricken Jews in Ethiopia. A judge fined Michael Kruppnick \$5,000 and sentenced him to a year in jail, but suspended 11 months of the term. 4.9 kilograms of marijuana, 0.9 kilogramme of marijuana seeds and photographs of Kruppnick standing next to marijuana plants were seized in the man's home, police said. Kruppnick, 31, said he was donating the proceeds from his marijuana sales to the cause of Ethiopian Jews.

China has severe shortage of doctors

PEKING (AP) — China has only 720,000 doctors to care for its population of more than 1 billion, an official news report has said. The China Daily newspaper said the ratio of qualified doctors to the population is especially severe in rural areas where eight of every 10 Chinese live. It said China has 3.41 million medical workers, but only 720,000 are doctors — 0.7 per cent per 1,000 people. To raise that ratio to one for every 1,000 people by the year 2000, when China's population is expected to exceed 1.25 billion, the nation will have to graduate 60,000 doctors a year, the paper said. The report did not say how many doctors currently are graduating from medical schools.

Book of Kells launched in print

DUBLIN (R) — The Book of Kells, a medieval masterpiece which ranks as one of the world's most beautiful illuminated manuscripts, was launched into print — almost 12 centuries after it was created. Swiss publisher Urs Duggelin, who has developed a special mobile book holder with suction pads for photographing the famous Irish national treasure, presented at a news conference the first four pages of the first full colour facsimile edition of the fragile 680-page tome, Dublin's Trinity College, keeper of the Book of Kells, sanctioned the project by the Lucerne publisher who hopes to complete the facsimile project by 1990. A limited edition of about 1,500 copies will be sold to private collectors and libraries in Europe and the United States. Each copy will be priced at just under \$10,000. Before the news conference, Duggelin presented to Irish President Patrick Hillery the first four facsimile pages of the book, a lavishly illustrated Latin text of the four gospels produced by Irish monks in 800 A.D.

Number up for Irish 'sweep'

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — An institution passed into history with the closure of the Irish Sweepstakes, victim of a new state-run lottery and a drop in takings from abroad. It's a very traumatic thing. The 'sweep' was looked upon as an institution that would never die," said a spokesman for the privately owned hospitals trust, which set up the big-money competition in 1931. The Hospitals Sweepstakes, its formal title, paid out 275 million Irish pounds (\$412 million) in prize money and contributed 134 million Irish pounds (\$201 million) toward hospital building and medical programmes. "Most of the money was raised in the 1930s and 1940s when millions meant millions, and it built hospitals all over the country," said the spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Its biggest single payout was 354,724 pounds to Londoner Emilio Scala in 1931. The pound was worth about \$4.50 in the 1930s. After that, the prize money was split into multiple prizes, and recent first awards have ranged from 100,000 pounds (\$150,000) to 150,000 pounds (\$225,000). The Sweepstakes, a private company operating with government approval, has fallen into debt since the mid-1970s, the spokesman said. Its Dublin headquarters put up its shutters after deciding it could not compete with a state-run lottery being introduced on March 23.

Brazil poised for carnival

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Four days of eating, drinking, music and scantily-clad dancing began in Rio as the city kicked off its annual carnival. Carnival, which nominally ushers in the Roman Catholic period of Lent, was officially opened when Rio's "Rei Momo", or clown king, was handed the keys to the city by Mayor Saturnino Braga. The festival, perhaps best known for the beautiful women who parade in revealing costumes to the beat of Samba bands, is expected to attract millions of Brazilians and thousands of tourists. In a bid to keep the fun clean, Rio police have arrested more than 3,000 thieves, prostitutes, vagrants and others with criminal records. The detainees, dubbed by newspaper the "what am I going to say at home" gang, are kept in a large shed near the city zoo and will be released on Ash Wednesday. The Archbishop of Rio, Dom Eugenio Sales, has reminded radio listeners that this was a time for penitence. "At the moment when pleasure... is placed on a pedestal of false divinity, the Christian... should complete his mission of fomenting good and light in the darkness in a world gone mad," he said in a broadcast message.

Seoul starts work on 'counter dam'

SEOUL (R) — South Korea Saturday began work on a \$700 million dam to counter what the government says is a threat of flooding from a North Korean dam.

Prime Minister Lho Shin-Yong and Construction Minister Lee Kyu-Hyo formally started work on the South's dam by detonating an explosive charge at the site near the demilitarised zone (DMZ) that bisects the Korean peninsula.

Mr. Lho said: "If the North Korean dam collapsed or was artificially destroyed, it is clear the consequent flood would bring disaster to our country by devastating Seoul and nearby areas where more than 15 million people live."

Bodies of 10 Philippine massacre victims exhumed

MANILA (R) — Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos Saturday ordered the arrests of three soldiers following an alleged army massacre of 17 civilians in the northern Philippines.

Workers Friday dug up the coffins of 10 victims at Namulan-dayan village in Nueva Ecija province, north of Manila, after the presidential Commission on Human Rights ruled they had been buried without autopsies.

Survivors of the Feb. 10 shooting said soldiers herded families

outside their huts and gunned down men, women and children after Communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels ambushed an army patrol, killing one soldier.

A statement from military headquarters said Gen. Ramos had ordered the arrest and the restriction to barracks of two officers of the 14th Infantry Battalion following the report from a fact-finding team headed by Col. Pedro Juachon. A third man, a corporal, had also been arrested, the statement said.

Soviet unions edge towards multiple-candidacy elections

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's official labour movement, under fire for doing too little to protect workers' interests, amended its charter on Saturday so that more than one candidate can stand for election to union posts.

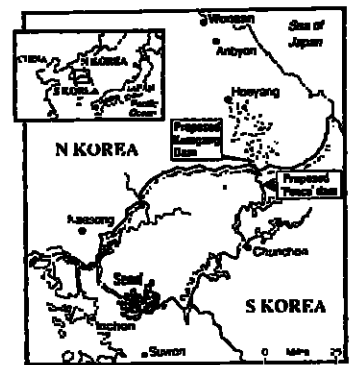
Some 5,000 delegates at a union congress in Moscow also re-elected Stepan Shalayev, 58, as chairman of the movement. Mr. Shalayev, a member of the Communist Party Central Committee, has held the post since the last Congress in March 1982.

The official news agency TASS, reporting on the last day of the congress, said the unions' new charter had "a provision on

the possibility of nominating several candidates to each elective post... instead of one candidacy as in the past."

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev called at a party central committee meeting last month for more democracy in all spheres of public life, including the party, and specifically advocated secret balloting and elections with more than one candidate.

The central committee adopted a resolution which fell short of wholehearted endorsement of his proposals, reflecting what Western analysts believe is considerable nervousness in the party over the speed and extent of Mr. Gorbachev's reform drive.



The South Korean government has said North Korea could use its dam, being built just across the border on a tributary of the Han River which also runs through Seoul, for military purposes if it attacked the South.

North Korea says its dam is part of hydro-electric project and will cause no harm to South Korea.

Officials here said the South's dam would be able to divert or possibly turn back floodwaters if the North Korean dam is breached.

The South's dam would be built in two phases, with the first scheduled for completion by May next year at a cost of almost \$200 million.

Seoul estimates that the

7 killed in Falklands helicopter crash

PORT CITY (R) — A British Royal Air Force helicopter has crashed near Mount Pleasant Airport in the Falklands Islands, killing all seven military personnel on board, the Defence Ministry said.

A spokesman said it was not known what caused the Chinook helicopter to crash and investigators were at the scene. He gave no further details.

Civilian versions of the Chinook were grounded in Britain last year after one crashed in the sea off the Shetland Islands, killing 45 people in the world's worst civilian helicopter accident.

The Chinook, in production since 1966, was used in the Vietnam War and the 1982 conflict between Britain and Argentina over the British-ruled Falklands.

The ministry said Friday's crash occurred on land while the weather and visibility were good.

Last May three people were killed and 13 injured when a Chinook crashed in the Falklands during bad weather.

U.S. agrees to civilian use of space station

PARIS (AP) — The United States has formally agreed that the future NASA space station, with European and Japanese participation, will be exclusively for peaceful, civilian use, the European Space Agency (ESA) has said.

The 11-nation agency that will build and operate the European module on the space station had stopped technical negotiations with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) late last year, after the U.S. Department of Defence expressed interest in the space station.

ESA's charter restricts the organisation to "exclusively peaceful" operations, and the organisation demanded firm guarantees before committing itself to the venture that there would be no military use of the space station.

Delegations from the United States, led by Richard Smith, principal deputy assistant secretary of state, and ESA, headed by Reinhard Loosch, director of international relations in the West German Ministry of Technology, ended 2½ days of talks on the problem Friday.

Both sides agree that the term 'civil space station for peaceful purposes' would be incorporated in a final agreement, ESA announced.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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AN OPEN BOOK

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ K 7
♥ 10 4
♦ 8 3
♣ A K 9 7 4 3 2

WEST
♠ 9 5 4 2
♥ 7 3
♦ A Q J 10 9 4
♣ 6

EAST
♠ A Q J 8 6 3
♥ 9 8 5 2
♦ 7 6 5 2
♣ Q 10 5

SOUTH
♠ 10
♥ A K Q 7 3
♦ K 7 6 5 2
♣ J 8

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 ♣ 3 ♠ 4 ♣
Pass 4 ♣ 3 ♠ Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠

Do we believe that men are better bridge players than women? At the very top level, yes. If that makes us male chauvinists, so be it. However, that does not detract from the skill shown by many of the opposite sex. Here's a fine hand played by Kerri Shuman of Los Angeles, from the recent Vanderbilt Team Championship.

South's hand, a perfectly sound opening bid at the outset, depreciated drastically once West made a preemptive jump overcall of three diamonds. However, since North's

bid of four clubs was forcing, South settled for rebidding the heart suit, which ended the auction.

A spade lead and continuation would have been disastrous for declarer. However, West chose to attack with his club, and it was obvious to all the world that it was a singleton. Declarer won and drew three rounds of trumps, setting up East's nine as a winner. That also gave her a complete count of the hand. As West surely had six diamonds for his jump overcall and there were seven in her hand and dummy, East had to be void in diamonds.

Since he was marked with four trumps and three clubs, that left him with six spades. And West would not have preempted if he had the ace of spades in addition to his good diamonds, so that card had to be with East.

Declarer continued with a club to the ace and a club ruff, establishing the long clubs in dummy. Now East was given the lead with his master trump.

Since he had nothing left but spades, the best he could do was to cash the ace of spades and then put dummy on lead with the king to take the last four tricks with good clubs. Declarer lost only one trick each in spades and hearts for an overtrick.